

Yasmin Catley MP

MEMBER FOR SWANSEA



Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
Review of Central Coast Council's water, sewerage and stormwater prices
PO Box K35
HAYMAKET POST SHOP NSW 1240

Dear Chair,

I write to you regarding the Review of Central Coast Council's water, sewerage and stormwater prices, in particular regarding Catherine Hill Bay in the Swansea electorate. I note the draft report was released on 2 April 2019 and has recommended that the water usage charge for non-residents be lowered from \$2.29 to \$1.90 per kilolitre.

While I welcome the reduction in the price of water per kilolitre, I am concerned about the lack of any meaningful regulatory mechanism to ensure this price cut is passed onto Solo Water's end-users. As noted on page 122 of the draft report (box 11.2) when the estate reaches capacity Solo Water will be making a substantial margin on service charges. For this reason I urge that the review also recommend the inclusion of a price guideline regarding what Solo Water should be charging residents.

I note that IPART has the capacity to regulate WICA licensees who hold a monopoly license and would bring to the review's attention that Solo Water owns the water infrastructure within the Beaches estate. Solo Water is a monopoly supplier to this area in all but name and as such it should be treated as one by IPART and the NSW Government.

I would urge that IPART take into consideration the protection of consumers in Catherine Hill Bay. They are currently locked into paying exorbitant prices for water and significant effort should be made to ensure that Council and Solo Water do not make significant profits at the expense of local residents.

I look forward to your response in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Yasmin Catley MP
Member for Swansea



2 April 2019

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