



James Jackson  
President

Ref: 18126OC

19 October 2018

Mr Matthew Edgerton  
Executive Director  
Water and Local Government Department  
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal  
PO Box K35  
**HAYMARKET POST SHOP NSW 1240**

Dear Mr Edgerton,

***Central Coast Council***

NSW Farmers is seeking clarification about proposed changes to stormwater drainage charges in the new Central Coast Council.

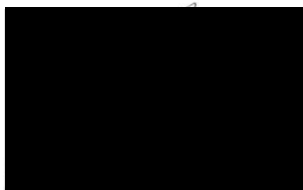
We understand that, following the amalgamation of the former Wyong and Gosford shires, the new Council proposes to harmonise rates and charges levied across the new shire. However, a consequence of this will be to impose a new levy on farmers in the former Wyong shire council for collection of stormwater.

Farmers have expressed concern that the additional costs arising from a stormwater charge would be a significant impost with little benefit and there is limited additional infrastructure proposed to mitigate stormwater. While they note the desire to harmonise rates and charges, there is concern that this particular proposal will leave them significantly worse off and with little apparently to be gained.

NSW Farmers calls for the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) to carefully consider the precedent which consideration of this matter will have for local government areas, and particularly agriculture, right across the state.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Association on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,



James Jackson  
**PRESIDENT**

**NSW Farmers' Association**

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