

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW  
PO Box K35  
Haymarket Post Shop NSW 1240

To whom it may concern,

### **Solo water charges for Catherine Hill Bay residents**

I write to lodge my objection and those of the community in relation to water charges levied by Solo Water at Catherine Hill Bay in the Swansea Electorate.

I have met with members of the Catherine Hill Bay community who have raised their concerns with me directly about Solo Water, the water utility provider for the Beaches Estate at Catherine Hill Bay.

Solo Water supply water to new properties at the Beaches Estate, which is currently under development. I have raised these concerns directly with the Government as residents believe that Solo Water would have a monopoly over the market in Catherine Hill Bay and would be able to make price variations outside of those stipulated by IPART.

Residents have since informed me that this is already happening, with prices rising rapidly, and consumers being charged for services they are as yet unable to use (because their houses are not yet built).

I am informed that Solo Water is sourcing its water from Central Coast Council, not Hunter Water, which is not standard practice for many water providers. I also understand that Central Coast Council is working to reduce water charges for its residents, therefore it is appropriate that Solo Water follow suit so that residents in Catherine Hill Bay are paying the same as their neighbours for an essential service.

I have also been contacted by residents in the former Wyong Shire Council area who are paying higher water costs than their neighbours further south in the former Gosford Shire Council area. Now that the two areas are under the one council banner as Central Coast Council, it makes sense that they should be paying the same for their water.

I ask that you take these concerns into consideration when making a determination on water pricing for 2019.

Yours sincerely,



Yasmin Catley MP  
**Member for Swansea**