

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Review of prices for water, sewerage and stormwater services for Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council June 2012.

I am writing to oppose the proposed increase that Wyong Council is seeking for the water, sewerage and stormwater services.

Council should not expect to be able to bleed ratepayers dry in a short period when these essential services under their control need to be planned for a long term future. Any proposed upgrade should have been identified and planned long before an urgent necessity so increases like these should not be put upon current ratepayers to provide a fix for another generation which we all want to see live in a healthy and affordable environment.

Ratepayers can understand a minor increase and they themselves must budget for the future and the council too must be responsible for their actions.

Water should not become a luxury item and be beyond the affordability of anyone. We are already returning to the past finding ways to live without electricity due to the prices. We shouldn't have people using and drinking untreated water from alternative places over long periods due to avoiding the cost of turning on a tap in their house.

The drainage fee that the council seeks is another one that needs to be clarified as when I questioned council as to what this fee contributes to there was no confirmation on the answer. And council has answered in the past that they are not in control of prices as they are set by IPART?

I am hoping IPART will take in consideration the increase that council seeks is beyond what ratepayers will be able to contribute to in the period that is proposed and better planning needs to be done for a long term future of these services.

Thanking You