

Dear Sir,

I note with concern that Gosford and Wyong Councils have made submissions to your Tribunal to increase water rates for Gosford City and Wyong Shire.

I would make the following points:

If you were to take a point in time (say 3-5 years ago), water availability and costs were sufficient to maintain supply on a cost neutral basis.

Since this time, significant development has taken place in both council areas (000's of new dwellings), with these new developments contributing to the revenues of providing water.

No significant new infrastructure has been provided (eg dams, pumping from creeks, desalination, etc.) in securing this additional revenue.

What provision has been made from this additional revenue to provide for extra capacity should a shortfall occur (as is now the case)?

That councils now need to procure additional water should not result in a price increase (except CPI), as new development revenue should meet this infrastructure/capacity shortfall.

Where has this additional revenue gone?

Is this an opportunistic grab for additional revenue by the councils?

I would ask the Tribunal to consider all relevant facts prior to making its decision.

Regards,

Owen James