



March 2022

Ms Carmel Donnelly
Chair
Independent Price and Regulatory Tribunal

By email: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair,

We write regarding the Independent Price and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) review of Central Coast Council's application for a special variation to rates.

We note that IPART previously approved a rate rise increase for Central Coast residents to 15.55% beginning in 2024-25 for three years, but Council is seeking a further seven year extension of this rate rise.

While we understand the reasons behind the rate rise, we have always advocated that the NSW Government had an obligation to provide financial support to Central Coast Council after its botched amalgamation.

Given the NSW Government has chosen to abandon the people of the Central Coast, Council was left with no choice but to raise rates and cut services to recover its debts.

We would strongly urge that IPART take into consideration the financial stress a 10 year rate rise will place upon Central Coast ratepayers. Many residents are already suffering from mortgage stress and to sustain such a substantial rate rise over a prolonged period risks further entrenching the regions housing crisis.

The approval of this variation must come with support for those facing financial hardship and exemptions for some of our most vulnerable residents such as pensioners, disability pensioners etc.

If this rate variation is to be approved the community expect services cut in the initial austerity measures taken by management to be restored, without this undertaking there will be little hope of the community accepting such a rate rise.

We ask you take into in consideration the concerns raised above in determining this application.

Yours Sincerely



Yasmin Catley MP
Member for Swansea



David Harris MP
Member for Wyong



David Mehan MP
Member for The Entrance



Liesl Tesch MP