

## 2022 Central Coast Council Water Price Review

The quality of service in my area is adequate, I just don't drink the water when it's brown, but the infrastructure is getting old and needs replacement. I don't mind paying a bit more to bring this into line with surrounding councils, but 34% is too large an increase to trust Central Coast Council with when they haven't proved that anything has changed at council in terms of the culture around productivity and efficiency. The council must be limited in how they use the increase in funds, i.e., only for maintaining and replacing the water infrastructure. The current rate should be sufficient for running costs with the increase used for capital spending.

Any increase to bills proposed by Central Coast Council is suspicious while they are trying to fix their current money woes. The Council are cutting services and increasing rates across the board, while also selling off valuable public land. The residents of the Central Coast cannot afford to foot this bill. The Central Coast Council first needs to make their processes and staff more efficient using the funds they do have, to prove that any price increases will be efficiently used to improve the standards of living of the people of the Central Coast and not fueling more debt.

Any increase in bills should be staggered, both as a whole and between the old Wyong and Gosford Council areas, with cost eventually being the same over the whole Central Coast Council area. While the Central Coast is above average in most categories that rate disadvantage, there is a big range of incomes in the area that hide the lowest socioeconomic groups somewhat, especially in the old Wyong Council area. There are many disadvantaged people living on the Central Coast who live with a very strict budget. A sudden increase will be too much of a shock for these people, especially coming out of a pandemic when peoples savings have been depleted while in lockdown.

A drought price is a great idea. I hear and see way too many people wasting water. For example, water sprinklers are used on lawns in the heat of the day (despite it being illegal to do so between 10am and 4pm), or I see people that clean their eves, driveways, and paths with the hose in the middle of the day.

Any extra funds received for stormwater services must be used for stormwater only. The environmental impact should be first and foremost in any use of these funds.