

Author name: Name suppressed

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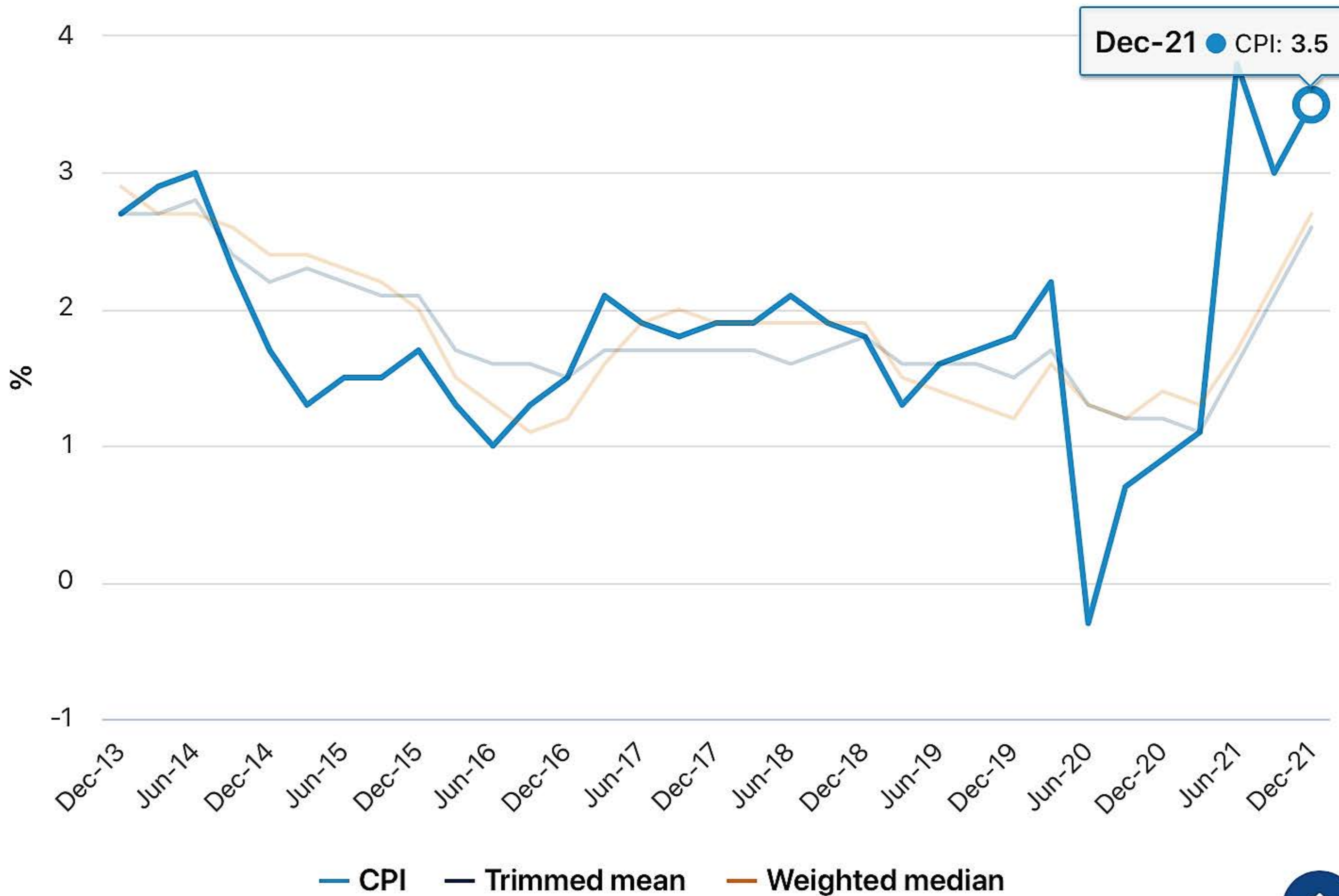
Your submission for this review:

As a resident of Ettalong Beach, I would like to comment on the proposed increases in water prices by Central Coast Council and IPART's draft proposal. IPART should reconsider their draft proposal to take into account the current significant increases in the cost of living, which is continuing to escalate. The inflation rate in Australia was officially 3.5% while wages increased by only 2.1% over the same period. Petrol has gone up 52% and vegetables around 6.1% in the past 12 months. With transport costs increasing, the average shopping costs for essentials will continue to increase. The four major Banks this week predict 4 or 5 interest rate rises over the next 6 months. The Reserve Bank's report this week stated " there are some risks around borrowers' capacity to pay if rising inflation is not accompanied by faster income growth and rising business profits" Inflation, cost of living increases leave people struggling to afford everyday items. The impact of even an initial 19% in water costs proposed by IPART would put an unacceptable additional cost burden on residents. My recommendation is that this proposed increase by IPART should not be implemented and instead Council be required to revisit their water program and reduce the costs of this program. The Council has a very poor record in managing projects, costs and finance. Please find attached charts illustrating petrol costs and CPI increases. Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I trust my comments will be taken into consideration.

Graph Table

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### CPI, Trimmed mean & Weighted median: Annual movement (%)



Dec-21 ● CPI: 3.5



The price of petrol in NSW has gone up 52 per cent in the last 12 months, according to Fuel Watch NSW.

### Price of fuel in NSW has gone up 52 per cent in a year

12 month average price

E10 petrol Diesel

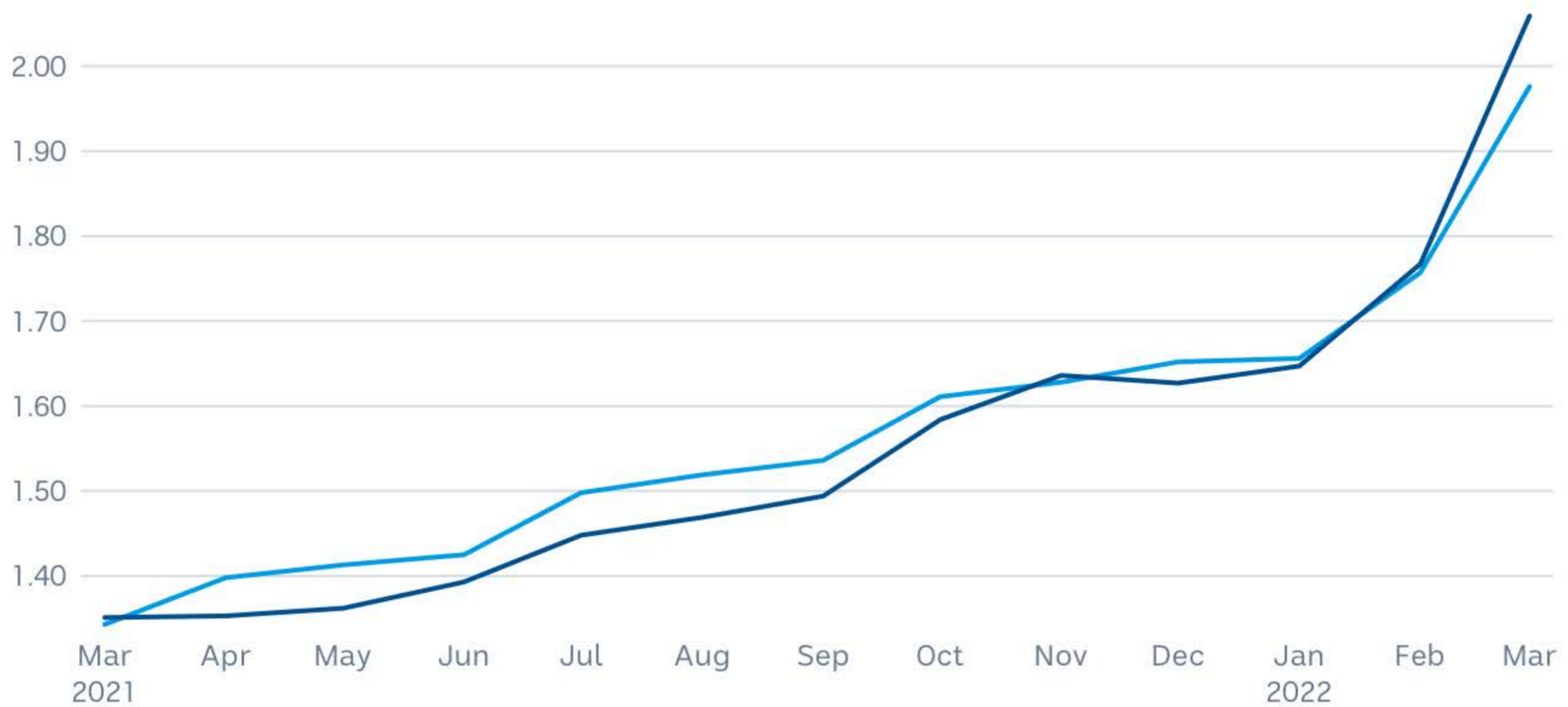


Chart: ABC News / Source: [Fuel Check NSW](#) / [Get the data](#)

Fuel prices rose more last year than in any year since 1990, according to the ABS.

Since then, the cost of petrol has continued to climb, driven by rising global fuel prices and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.