



## SENATOR DEBORAH O'NEILL

NEW SOUTH WALES SENATOR

01 March 2021

Dr Paul Paterson  
Chair  
Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal  
2-24 Rawson Pl  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Dr Paterson,

I am writing you on behalf of Central Coast ratepayers in opposition to the Central Coast Council's Special Rate variation application. As Duty Senator for the Federal Seat of Robertson and a Central Coast ratepayer I am deeply troubled the proposed rate rise would be another financial shock during a once in a century recession and pandemic.

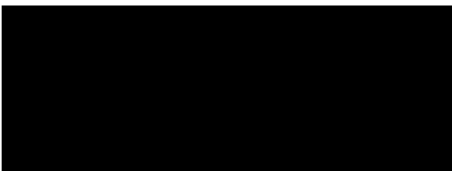
The current financial crisis at the Central Coast council is not the fault of the ratepayers, many of whom have already received substantial rate rises of an average of \$868 per year before the amalgamation and more since.

Central Coast residents already pay higher rates than other areas with similar incomes and a further rate increase would leave them even further behind. It would also put further stress on an already strained Central Coast rental market.

The challenge that faces Central Coast residents is pressing. Significant and practical financial support from the State Berejiklian Government and Local Liberal member Adam Crouch should be actively sought and provided by the State Government in these extraordinary times, in order to prevent the foreseeable trauma and negative financial impacts of a substantial rate rise at this time.

I strongly encourage IPART to take the needs of the Central Coast ratepayers into account, particularly their economic, social and housing accessibility and affordability needs.

Kind regards,



**Senator Deborah O'Neill**  
**Senator for NSW**