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Date of submission: Wednesday, 17 October 2018

Submission: Are you considering the ethics of charging people for services that will not be provided to them? At a time when banks are being “hailed over the coals” for billing customers for products or services that they did not provide, the Central Coast Council is requesting permission to use the same unconscionable tactics.

Previously the Gosford Council was collecting stormwater drainage charges from all of its customers in the former Gosford area even if outside the declared drainage area whereas the Wyong Council only collected charges from those properties which fall within the declared drainage area.

Given the opportunity to “right a wrong” and exclude Gosford customers outside the declared drainage area, Central Coast Council has chosen to expand the number of customers who are charged for services that the Council has no intention of providing to include Wyong customers who reside outside the declared drainage area.

Adding insult to injury, the Council proposes to charge people on acreage more to not receive the service than it will charge people to receive the service (a bit like a punishment for not needing a Council service). This despite many customers living on acreage which comes under the definition of Low Impact Properties (people with a house and shed and little else on acres of undeveloped land).

Surely it is fairer to charge these customers the same as residents are charged as they will benefit from Council’s storm water drainage programs when travelling through the declared drainage area?

Thank you for your consideration.