

████████████████████ is a functional primary producing horticultural and vegetable farm. I'm 63 years of age, have been farming all my life and have been producing fruit and vegetables on this farm since 1983.

The costs of running farms over the years have increased dramatically. All five children have left the farm due to the costs involved which is not viable for them to stay through transgenerational ownership of the farm.

The Mangrove mountain plateau's storm water runoff from these farms do not go into the CBD of Gosford city, therefore the water runoff from these farms is at least 20 kms before it runs off into the ocean as storm water.

Storm water charges that the combined central coast council want to apply, will cause severe financial hardship.

On my farm, storm water is managed by water catchment such as dam and drainage channels, absorption through the soil back into the water table and retention through the remnants of native bushland.

Central Coast council does not supply any storm water services to my property. All the storm water coming off council property from George Downs drive into Barnes Road goes through my property.

My property is more than 45,000sqm, thus based on the proposal increase will create further financial hardship for myself.

I note that the proposed exemption for non-residential Low impact rate is \$110.77. Since the creation of one council the state governments advised that there would be limited increases in rates. Given the rural farming conducted on my property my expectation is that I would qualify for this exemption.

However, the proposal lacks sufficient detail to alleviate my concerns regarding the eligibility for exemption and how this process works in the long-term for me. My concerns is that the cost of this charge which will affect me at an extra \$100 dollars plus a week, which I would have to find. The farm will have to go which would be unviable.

Yours Sincerely
Paul Starkey

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