

I have only just learnt of this proposition following my neighbour's receipt of a communication from Council (dated 8/10/18) yet the letter indicates feedback is required by 12/10/18. I HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY SUCH ADVICE – perhaps not seen as priority given our property is not in the top (45+ha) sector BUT STILL VERY RELEVANT.

Unfortunately most of my neighbours do not have access to a computer to communicate their reactions – which I can assure you are SHOCK AND DISMAY.

To put things in perspective, we receive MINIMAL value for our rates which are significant, effectively for residential situations, certainly with the luxury of space but we pay very dearly for our sponsorship of the local ecology.

We DO NOT enjoy the benefit of delivered water, have to pay for our own sewerage systems (properly meeting Council's health requirements) and in effect, Council's only stormwater service – drainage of Council's roads – is simply discharged onto OUR properties. WE then bear the cost of any subsequent drainage of that water to the creek – then to be harvested by Council and SOLD to townies.

I have NO technical awareness of this sector but as a layman it seems to me "stormwater" is the result of man's impact on nature i.e. roofs, pathways and road surfaces which prevent the natural absorption of rain into the ground.

Certainly that creates drainage problems for Council in suburbia.

In the country where we do not have Water supplied, we HAVE to harvest as much as possible of any rain which falls on our roof for our very survival – we in fact seek to MINIMISE run-off.

To think you propose to penalise us (based on acreage) for Mother Nature is unthinkable and unjust.

Perhaps not considered by Council but the level of increase proposed will force many of the ageing, mostly self funded retirees who live in this area to consider sale of their properties because they simply cannot afford such an impact.

That risks downturn in property prices (read rateable value) and as a result Council income.