

23 June 2025

IPART

ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

RE: Prices for Sydney Water Corporation October 2025

Dear IPART

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on IPARTs proposed pricing for Sydney Water October 2025.

The Georges Riverkeeper is an independent, not-for-profit organisation funded by seven member Councils; Bayside Council, Campbelltown City Council, City of Canterbury Bankstown, Fairfield City Council, Georges River Council, Liverpool City Council and Sutherland Shire Council. Georges Riverkeeper was formed in 1979 by councils with a collective responsibility for river health to work together with the community to improve the environmental condition of the river and its catchment to provide ongoing collaboration and management actions, achieving value for money for our members and positive river health outcomes for the Georges River.

The Georges River catchment is an area of Sydney with forecasted substantial population growth. A growing city requires areas for recreation and the Georges River and the open space surrounding it is important to the health and well being of this community and the health of the waterway. A growing city also requires essential infrastructure to provide essential services to these communities, such as water and sewerage services.

I write with concern for IPARTs proposed reduction to Sydney Water's planned capital spending program for upgrades and new infrastructure. The most important factors for IPART to consider when determining Sydney Water pricing are:

1. That Sydney Water services do not deteriorate.
2. Sydney Water improves environmental outcomes with particular emphasis on waterway health.
3. That pricing encourages water conservation and using water wisely.
4. That Sydney Water meets its environmental regulatory obligations.

The Georges River is currently impacted by stormwater pollution contaminants and in high rainfall events sewage overflows caused by overwhelming of the existing sewerage systems. It is therefore a concern for our organisation that the proposed reduction in pricing will negatively impact

Sydney Waters proposed upgrades to the sewage treatment network and in particular, facilities within the Georges River catchment.

Population growth and climate change afford the necessity to upgrade pre-treatment at water filtration plants to improve drinking water quality and provide safe drinking water, considered a basic human right. The Prospect Water Filtration Plant is located within the Georges River catchment and in an area with a forecasted doubling of population by 2045. A delay in these proposed upgrades may impact the drinking water quality for a large proportion of the Sydney population. The time for renewal is now, in anticipation of growth, not as a catch up or when we reach a crisis.

For further information I can be contacted at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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Georges Riverkeeper