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Your submission for this review:

My comment pertains to Chapter 5 of the draft report. Demand for capital expenditure on new water assets is driven by federal government immigration policies. Natural Australian population growth is negligible as reflected in a fertility rate of 1.6. The federal government do not properly factor in the significant cost of new infrastructure associated with immigration led population growth. With current population growth at over 2% (or doubling every 40 years) the federal government, rather than water customers should be funding new capital expenditure required for such rapid growth. In order for federal government policies to be optimised, they need to factor in all of the externalities. A high immigration rate drives up demand for housing and associated new water infrastructure. The additional consumption also places an unsustainable burden on the driest inhabited continent on the planet. I recommend that no capital expenditure for Sydney Water is funded through customer rates.