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Your submission for this review:
I am not too concerned about the pricing, being the fact that charges are based upon works and future works and upgrades. What I am concerned about is the report in the Newcastle Herald in July 2024 noting that "The capacity of Grahamstown Dam will be reduced to 90 per cent following a study that found the dam's walls could break in an earthquake." It then notes that the risk is a 1 in 3,500 year event of happening. I would like to know what is the risk level and who assesses this as unsafe and therefore requires attention? What risk level is determined as safe? I would like to note that 3,500 years is a long time and 3,500 years ago was the Greco-Roman era. This length of risk seems to draw a very long bow, at great expense to all in the Hunter catchment area. This has a cost, flow on effect to all constituents. Is there any relevance between this and the desalination plant being constructed at Belmont, considering Newcastle and the Lower Hunter area has previously always had sufficient water and has been virtually 'drought proofed' with Grahamstown Dam for many years. Could you please explain why 3,500 year events are relevant in determining risk? Also who determines that the risk is in fact a 3,500 year event and what data do they use to determine such a length of period event? This appears on the face to me, to be a great waste of money being burdened by all Hunter Water users.