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Date of submission: Friday, 8 November 2024

Your submission for this review:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the pricing review for Sydney Water. It is with concern that the proposal to increase prices by such a significant amount over 5 years is unbelievable. While the need to maintain critical infrastructure is strongly supported the extent of the increase and the need demonstrates mismanagement over the years and neglect of infrastructure maintenance. This mismanagement should not be at the expense of consumers who mostly were of the view that the prices paid provided for infrastructure maintenance and renewal. This increase together with other government increases including just putting food on the table place a significant strain on resident resources. The proposed increases are in my view not justified and other efficiency measures at Sydney Water should be investigated as a priority. No private organisation has the benefit of no competition and the opportunity to seek such increases, it is time that water provision is opened up to the market. Further of concern is that the Federal Govt continues to buy water for environmental purposes leaving the residual to be fought over by our regional communities. The proposed water pricing shows a severe lack of water and infrastructure management with the consequent impact on households, business and regional communities. Sydney Water must first look at its organisation to extract optimum efficiencies without using pricing as the easy way out of fixing problems of its own creation. The proposed price increases in my view cannot be justified and should be rejected based on 1) mismanagement 2) not justified 3) uncompetitive 4) negative impact on cost of living, business, regional communities 5) proposed increase may drive some business to the wall