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Your submission for this review:

The Draft Report of IPART essentially agrees with the Hunter Water proposed water pricing for 2025-26 to 2029-30. Without examination of the actual Hunter Water operating and capital costings, it seems that an increase in consumer prices of some 50% over 5 years is rather excessive, considering all Government promises to address the increasing 'cost of living'. These prices will worsen the current 'cost of living crisis'. We will soon need Government subsidies or a cash-splash to assist water users (everybody!) pay their bills. While this may appear to be a flippant comment, what is wrong with limiting annual price increases to 3.6% to 5.1% similar to Local Council rate-pegging limits? What is wrong with the principle of affordability? It's not like users can shop around a group of water suppliers for a better deal, ala electrical and telecommunications. In short, the proposed residential water charges are excessive and should be limited to around 5%. Hunter Water should be required to examine both the capital and operating costs for the next 5 years and asked to reduce their commitments in both areas to fit the community affordability.