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Your submission for this review:

Thanks for this opportunity to provide comment on the proposal by Sydney Water to increase prices. 1. Sydney Water claims that it has engaged with customers and stakeholders in identifying its proposals for price increases. The recent news releases and the IPART review is the first we've heard about the issue. We're long-term customers of Sydney Water, and there has been no previous advice to us from Sydney Water about these proposals through emails or any other approach. 2. In seeking to set these prices, Sydney Water appears to have adopted a strategy that spreads its identified price increases across all of its customer base. Instead of adhering to the concept of "user pays". The IPART issues paper notes that Sydney Water plans to spend \$9.5B over the next 5 years on growth projects, of which developers will contribute only \$3.9B. It seems fundamentally unfair that under-funded new development costs should be borne by all Sydney Water customers. 3. We have no problem at all in paying for price increases that are needed to allow repairs and replacement of the infrastructure required to maintain existing systems that deliver our services. But find it hard to accept that, as Wollongong residents, we would be asked to help fund brand new systems and services in (say) Western Sydney, including stormwater systems. 4. The proposed price increases are significant. And will have a large impact on our budget and cost of living. Funding for new development and new projects should be sourced from either the development proponents and/or beneficiaries or (if that's not possible) through government grants. It should not be sourced from a captive customer base that has previously already funded development and implementation of the existing systems that service them.