

Dear Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) ,

We are writing to express my deep concerns about Sydney Water's proposed price increases for the coming years. As a resident of Sydney living in an apartment, we are greatly troubled by the potential impact these increases will have on our household budget and the broader community.

1. Significant Financial Burden

- The proposed 18% increase in the first year, followed by 6.8% yearly increases for the next four years, is excessive and unsustainable for many households.

- For my apartment, this could result in an additional cost of \$352.50 per quarter, which is a substantial increase in our living expenses.

2. Timing and Economic Context

- These increases are being proposed at a time when many families are already struggling with high living costs.
- The inflation rate remains high, and the Reserve Bank of Australia has not yet cut interest rates, adding to the financial pressure on households.

3. Lack of Alternatives

- As Sydney Water is the sole provider of water services, consumers have no alternative options, making this price increase particularly burdensome.

Questions and Requests

1. Has Sydney Water explored all possible efficiency measures and cost-saving strategies before proposing such significant price hikes?
2. Can the necessary infrastructure upgrades be spread out over a longer period to reduce the immediate impact on consumers?
3. What specific measures will be implemented to assist low-income households and those already struggling with cost of living pressures?
4. I request that IPART carefully consider the cumulative impact of these increases on Sydney residents, particularly those in apartments who may have limited ability to reduce their water consumption.
5. Please provide a detailed justification for why such large increases are necessary all at once, rather than implementing more gradual changes.

While I understand the need for infrastructure investment, I urge IPART to critically examine Sydney Water's proposal and consider more consumer-friendly alternatives. The proposed increases seem disproportionate and could cause significant

hardship for many Sydney residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope that you will prioritize the financial well-being of Sydney's residents in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.