

Author name: Name suppressed

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Your submission for this review:

Dear IPART, I am writing to express significant concerns regarding the proposed price increases for Sydney Water Corporation, as outlined in your Draft Report. While I acknowledge the need for utilities to cover their operational costs and invest in infrastructure, the scale of the proposed hikes appears excessive, particularly when considering the current economic climate and the existing pressures on household budgets. The report suggests adjustments that go beyond what seems justifiable by standard CPI or inflation measures. In a period marked by a severe cost of living crisis, where families are already struggling with rising expenses across housing, groceries, and energy, any additional significant increase in essential utility services like water will place an intolerable burden on residents. It is our understanding that CPI and inflation adjustments are typically designed to account for the general increase in costs of goods and services over time. If these mechanisms are adequately applied, it is difficult to comprehend the necessity for further substantial price escalations that appear to outstrip actual cost increases. Such additional hikes risk undermining the financial stability of many households and could lead to increased hardship for vulnerable members of the community. Water is an essential service, not a discretionary one. Ensuring its affordability is crucial for the well-being of all New South Wales residents. We urge IPART to thoroughly reconsider the proposed price increases, focusing on striking a fairer balance between Sydney Water's operational needs and the public's capacity to pay. A more conservative approach, perhaps primarily guided by CPI/inflation, would be more appropriate and responsible given the current economic environment. Thank you for considering these vital concerns. Sincerely,