## Date of submission: Thursday, 19 June 2025

## Your submission for this review:

If Sydney Water extends its wastewater services to the Hawkesbury City Council area in future, I strongly believe that these customers should not pay a separate wastewater price, and that any additional costs should be shared across all customers. This is the most equitable and socially responsible approach. The benefits of upgrading Hawkesburys wastewater infrastructure extend well beyond the local community. Improved water quality in the Hawkesbury River, better environmental outcomes, and more consistent service standards across the region are advantages that affect the broader Sydney metropolitan area. These are regional improvements, and it is reasonable that the cost be distributed regionally as well. Additionally, Hawkesbury residents are currently paying significantly more for wastewater services than other Sydney Water customers. Asking them to bear the full cost of upgrades would deepen this disparity and place an unfair financial burden on a relatively small group of people. Sydney Water is better equipped to manage and upgrade wastewater infrastructure to modern standards. Transferring responsibility from Hawkesbury City Council to Sydney Water would ensure long-term sustainability, environmental protection, and service reliability. The current infrastructure is aging and costly to maintain. Expecting Hawkesbury residents alone to fund necessary upgrades is unrealistic and inequitable. The wider community benefits from cleaner waterways, reduced environmental risks, and a more integrated metropolitan water system. This transition is not just about cost, but also about fairness, environmental stewardship, and ensuring that all communities in Greater Sydney have access to safe, reliable, and affordable wastewater services.