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Your submission for this review:

My husband and I are paying off a [REDACTED] Hawkesbury City Council has been basing our rates on a rateable value of \$246,000, using a 01/07/22 base date, even though our home's rateable value dropped as per the valuer general's 07/08/24 valuation of \$226,500. Suffice to say, our place is small and Hawkesbury City Council have been making more money on us than should have been legal. After seeing our rates notice on the fridge, a few different friends with much larger houses managed by Sydney water in other council areas remarked that our rates were extortionately expensive and suggested we check it out with the council. We decided to first check with our neighbours next door and compare our rates notices. Their property is an [REDACTED] [REDACTED] using a 01/07/22 base date, despite their home's rateable value also dropping as per the valuer general's 07/08/24 valuation of \$439, 000. In comparing our rates, we were sure there must have been some massive mistake on Council's part in over-charging us. My husband and I pay \$2914.03 annually. Our neighbours pay \$3455.49 annually. Of this total cost, each property appears to be charged \$1240.20 annually for a residential sewer connection alone. I contacted Hawkesbury City Council to raise this with them. This is when I was told that land and property size don't factor into Hawkesbury City Council's calculations of rates and charges at all. There again, neither do the Valuer General's valuations if it suits them to use 2022 data for charging customers in 2025 because it makes them more money. This is also when I learned about the local wastewater facility and how other customers using Sydney Water have lower Council rates as a result. I think if Sydney Water acquires the wastewater assets from Hawkesbury City Council, then the cost should be shared among Sydney Water customers. It is abundantly clear that Hawkesbury rate payers in South Windsor have been deeply exploited by Hawkesbury City Council to maintain these legacy wastewater assets. It is not by any means a wealthy area, which makes the Council seem even more vampiric by allowing this scam to continue for so long. It seems the most equitable and ethical solution is to have Sydney Water acquire this asset from Hawkesbury City Council's control and manage the wastewater services for all Hawkesbury residents and rate payers.