

I own a residential property served by Hunter Water. It was a typical residential house that has been partitioned into 3 simple self-contained 1-bedroom dwellings in the 1960s. These 3 individual dwellings are available for lease cheaply, and provide low income housing for people typically referred to me by the Salvation Army. I live on my own and am seeking to support myself through a modest rental income.

Hunter Water treats this property as 3 individual properties for billing purposes. This means I have to pay 3 lots of fixed charges, for what was originally a single house. I still only pay one set of basic rates to the local council.

There are larger single houses than my property with multiple bedrooms and bathrooms that are charged only as a single dwelling. This is simply unfair.

I am providing basic, low cost housing for low -income people which is scarce now. This charging approach disadvantages me and means I must put my rent up.

I lodged a submission to your Issues Paper back in November and I am disappointed that you have not made any changes to how I will be billed.

I ask that you remove this unfair and discriminatory practice and set a price so that Hunter Water only charges properties such as mine a single residential charge.