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Your submission for this review:

The Sydney wastewater network is under pressure from various angles. Some key components of the system are over 100 years old. The State Government drive for increased population in established areas will add to the load on the system. Climate change is resulting in more frequent heavy rain events and these contribute extra load (through infiltration) to the wastewater system. IPART's draft report recommends capital expenditure that is 35% lower than Sydney Water's proposal. I find this concerning in light of the above factors that will place additional pressure on a system that has already suffered some significant failures. Sydney Water was fined \$365,625 for seepage of 16 million litres of raw sewage into Flat Rock Creek in 2020, and had to pay local councils half a million dollars in reparation. Sydney Water was then ordered in Dec 2024 to pay \$200,000 to the NSW Environmental Trust after pleading guilty in the Land and Environment Court to failing to maintain equipment causing the release of untreated sewage into Powells Creek, a tributary of the Parramatta River. In order to minimise the risk of such incidents in the future, Sydney Water needs to be able to fund the capital works required to repair / augment / replace existing infrastructure and to build new infrastructure to support Sydney's growing population.