

23 June 2025

Mr Andrew Nicholls PSM
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal
water@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Our Ref: 2025/423443

Dear Mr Nicholls

Submission - IPART Review of Sydney Water's Pricing Proposal

Northern Beaches Council welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the review of Sydney Water's pricing proposal and acknowledges IPART's important role in ensuring that water and wastewater services remain both sustainable and affordable for the community.

Council recognises the significant financial pressures facing households, businesses and local governments across New South Wales and supports a balanced approach that avoids placing an unnecessary financial burden on customers, including those on the Northern Beaches.

Council remains concerned about the lack of investment from Sydney Water in the following areas and would like to ensure IPART is aware of these priorities:

- 1. Reduction of Sewer Overflows Impacting Beach Water Quality**

Sewer overflows, particularly during wet weather, continue to compromise the water quality of our beaches and waterways. Council wants to ensure that appropriate monitoring, infrastructure upgrades and maintenance programs are implemented that reduce these incidents and safeguard our coastal environment.

- 2. Minimising the impact of Asset Failures and Construction Activity**

Asset failures and construction works by Sydney Water can cause significant disruption to local communities. Council encourages investment in improved planning, communication, and mitigation strategies to reduce these impacts and ensure timely restoration.

- 3. Enhanced Treatment at Local Sewage Treatment Plants**

The recent incident involving debris balls washing up on our beaches highlights the need for improved treatment processes and operational oversight. Council supports improved treatment technologies, oversight and rapid response capabilities to prevent future occurrences.

4. Water and Wastewater Infrastructure for Scotland Island

The delivery of water and wastewater services to Scotland Island is a long-standing and essential need. Council strongly supports dedicated funding for this project, which will address health and environmental risks while ensuring equitable access to basic services for island residents.

Council appreciates IPART's efforts to ensure that pricing decisions reflect both the need for essential service improvements and the importance of affordability for customers. We look forward to future commitments from Sydney Water that ensure that these priorities are addressed in a fair and sustainable manner.

Should you require any further information or assistance in this matter, please contact my office on [REDACTED].

Yours faithfully

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