

Submission on IPART's Draft Determination – Sydney Water Pricing 2025–2030

Friday 20 June 2025

To whom it may concern,

As Chair of the South West Sydney Alliance, I write to express serious concern about the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) Draft Determination proposing a 35% reduction in Sydney Water's capital and operational expenditure for the 2025–2030 period. This \$5.9 billion cut would dramatically constrain our ability to deliver new homes, jobs and infrastructure—especially in South West Sydney, where growth is most intense.

The NSW Government has committed to delivering 377,000 new homes by 2029, yet Sydney Water's own modelling suggests the current draft determination would support water and wastewater services for only 120,000 homes. This shortfall would be felt most sharply in the South West Growth Area, the Greater Macarthur region, and the emerging Aerotropolis—precisely where the bulk of new housing and employment is planned.

Water infrastructure is not optional—it is foundational. Without timely investment in trunk and connection infrastructure, rezoning and planning reforms will mean little. We will stall before we even start.

We understand the importance of managing household bills, but IPART's proposed savings of just \$1.17 per week come at a cost too high to justify. By contrast, Sydney Water's proposal would increase the average weekly bill by only \$2.50 - still affordable by national standards, and vital for long-term readiness.

Crucially, Sydney Water is committing \$1 billion over the next five years to help vulnerable customers through targeted hardship and affordability programs. This is a smarter, fairer way to address cost-of-living challenges without jeopardising the infrastructure needed to serve a growing city.

The consequences of underinvestment won't just be fewer homes—they will include delays to job-creating precincts, higher environmental risks, and long-term financial costs. South West Sydney is on the frontlines of population growth, economic expansion and transformation. But that future depends on the basics being delivered today.

We urge IPART and the NSW Government to back Sydney Water's full investment proposal. The South West deserves a determination that supports its people, its potential, and its plans for the future.

[Redacted signature block]