

PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE

23 June 2025

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW (IPART)
PO Box K35
Haymarket Post Shop
NSW 1240

Sent via email: ipart@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal NSW (IPART),

RE: PRICES FOR SYDNEY WATER CORPORATION FROM 1 OCTOBER 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Prices for Sydney Water Corporation from 1 October 2025. Council considers Asset Management of existing infrastructure, ensuring the needs of the community into the future are of high importance and provide these comments to assist in the decision-making process.

Council advocates for effective maintenance and renewal of existing water and wastewater infrastructure as these projects are essential to the Willoughby LGA network operations and the health and wellbeing of the community and environment. Aging infrastructure is an ongoing challenge and Council wants to ensure that Sydney Water retains all existing programs for asset renewals and maintenance within the Willoughby City Council local catchments. Any decrease in these programs will likely have an impact on the quality of the network and may adversely impact Council's own network causing cost shifting onto Council's asset management maintenance and renewal programs.

Recent rezonings have provided capacity for 5,900 additional dwellings in St Leonards and Crows Nest, not previously anticipated, and 6,500 dwellings in and around Chatswood CBD. This growth is now zoned, and several housing developments in the St Leonards - Crows Nest precinct (in the Lane Cove LGA) have been delayed due to issues relating to Sydney Water. In the context of the housing crisis, Council recommends that IPART ensure its final report clearly assures the community that the important Sydney Water upgrades servicing this growth have been considered and remain viable.

Council is currently undertaking the Scott's Creek Flood Study and Risk Management Plan (Plan) in partnership with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW). This Plan will identify projects for risk mitigation and implementation and will rely significantly on a joint organisational approach including partnering with Sydney Water to address upgrades of their network. Council requests that these projects are identified for future funding potential and that collaboration continues on identifying these flood risk mitigation projects.

Council encourages transparent and appropriate community engagement on projects within the Willoughby City Council LGA. Projects impacting the community, businesses or property owners should be communicated early and effectively to alleviate stress and enable proactive feedback from all stakeholders.

Willoughby City Council

Lastly, this submission has been prepared by Council staff and reflects the organisation's feedback on the draft Prices for Sydney Water Corporation from 1 October 2025. It has not been adopted by Council at an Ordinary Council Meeting.

Yours sincerely

