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Submission: I understand the desire for maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

What I don't understand is why the funding for this is not built in to the current prices? Are we not already paying enough?

The price for all things seems to be going up but people's capacity to pay is going down.

This is not sustainable. If the prices don't rise, people will still have water, just not as great an investment in maintenance. If the prices do rise, the maintenance may increase, but people will be forced into financial hardship. Maintenance of water infrastructure does not keep the populace awake at night. Ever-increasing bills, with non-existent wage growth, does.

34% increase over five years is massively above the projected CPI, and wages aren't even matching CPI now. Even if wages somehow grow over the next five years (and I have no reliable evidence to assume they would), they will not rise 34%!

I cannot see, unless one is only looking from the perspective of Hunter Water, how such an increase can be morally justified, at a time of looming recession! It would be astounding in its callousness.

If an increase **MUST** happen, it needs to be limited to 10% or less. Hunter Water may not achieve its infrastructure goals with such a level of funding, but then again, few households are achieving their financial sustainability either, and their cries for funding (i.e. reasonable wage increases) always seem to fall on deaf ears.