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Submission: I respect Hunter Waters ambitions to improve their customer service and reliability. However as a 84 year old part age pensioner I fear for the impact it will have on me and others in my age group. Has Hunter water looked at their own systems to reduce operating costs?. Some for their costing is 10% with a current inflation rate of 2.5%.

The official interest rate is now at 0.75%, resulting in the accelerating use of retirement saving and the need to rely on the age pension.

Another fact is that the age pension will not increase by 24% over the next 5 years to accommodate Hunter Water's planed increases to its customers.

Further to this the NSW State Treasurer took a \$100 million dividend from Hunter Water this year. Is this fair?. Are Hunter Water customers being asked to pay an indirect tax of \$100 million?

Finally is this type of impost the reason the highest incident of suicide in Australia is with men in the 80 to 90 year age group?