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Submission: Prices for Hunter Water Corporation from 1 July 2020.

My submission against the proposed increases by Hunter Water.

Hunter Water already has charges that are higher than Gosford and Sydney, both are actually proposing to further reduce the charges to their customers.

As at June 1st, 2019 a further 307 residences in the "Red Zone" in Port Stephens, that are now serviced by Hunter Water, have been connected to town water. The cost of these connections has been paid for by the Department of Defence at a cost of \$8million. The Red Zone is an area of over 600 properties that have their properties contaminated by chemicals leaching from the RAAF Base. Many of these properties are rural acreages that had previously watered their animals by use of dams. These farms can no longer use surface water for their animals and I am aware of one property owner that based on current charges will be paying around \$20,000 to water their stock each year.

Hunter Water services an area of high under-employment and high percentage of pensioners. The cost of living has increased but the means to cover these increases are not possible to many.

I can see no reason for Hunter Water needing to increase charges and can only suggest that they need to budget better. We all have to live within our means and that will require Hunter Water to do the same.