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IPART

Prices for Sydney Water
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Sydney Business Chamber:
Helping Sydney maximise its potential as a leading global city.

Sydney Business Chamber is a division of NSW Business Chamber which represents 30,000 businesses across the state.

SUBMISSION: PRICES FOR SYDNEY WATER FROM 1 JULY 2020

On behalf of the Western Sydney Business Chamber, it is our pleasure to write in response to the IPART Issues Paper, dated September 2019.

The Western Sydney Business Chamber represents more than 110 of the region's leading business, community, and government organisations and is a vocal advocate for the opportunities to expand the Western Sydney economy and create more jobs locally for our growing community. Sydney Water has been a strong partner in ensuring that Western Sydney has the correct infrastructure core to service the expanding population.

Since the last IPART review, there has been significant change in the landscape for business in the Western Sydney region. The city's growth has accelerated at the same time an extended period of high temperatures and low rainfall has left our water supply at a critical point. All these factors have signalled the need for significant capital expenditure in upgrading the network to be truly resilient and agile to the need to supply water, potable, and non-potable, to the residents and businesses of Western Sydney.

The growth that we see projected in 'greenfield' developments is unprecedented, with the newly formed Western City and Aerotropolis covering over 11,000 hectares. We are at a pivotal moment in Sydney Water's journey as the Western City is projected to house up to an additional 500,000 people in the next 10 years, while we will continue to have significant growth in the Central (Parramatta) and Eastern (Sydney CBD) Cities. These factors continue to signal the need for a robust rethink of the water infrastructure. We do indeed need to do water differently in Western Sydney if we are going to successfully manage and supply water to these growing communities. Both the NSW Government and Federal Governments have prioritised this region, resulting in a significantly different network requirement. Our Membership rely on the leadership of Sydney Water in these greenfield developments to ensure the timely delivery of projects. We should ensure that Sydney Water has the resources that it requires to enable the economic growth of Western Sydney.

We note that Sydney Water's capital expenditure work plan, which is significantly higher than the last IPART review looks at addressing many parts of the Western City and the aforementioned supply challenges. On top of the significant amount of residential and commercial development that will take place over the coming years, there is also the South Creek catchment requiring a new waste treatment facility, providing a method of disposal for wastewater locally. We are excited by this opportunity, providing more efficient and environmentally sustainable solutions to our growing

water challenge. This can be used in a variety of ways, potentially even feeding into the proposed Aerotropolis Agribusiness Precinct. With rapid growth and development continuing further away from wastewater ocean outfalls and encroaching on inland waterways, water recycling can become an increasingly economic solution to wastewater treatment and disposal.

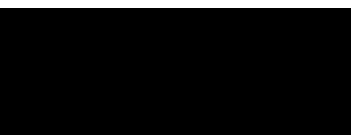
Without the work of Sydney Water and their expected investment, we will not be able to maintain a liveable and workable Western Sydney, the significant temperature variances between the East and Western Edges of Sydney can range up to 10 degrees. Innovative water management will be critical to providing relief to residents and businesses during the hottest periods of summer in Western Sydney, especially in the future Western City and Aerotropolis that will be positioning itself as a destination for advanced industries and will need to provide attractive amenity to attract and retain a high skilled workforce.

Sydney Water has engaged the business community strongly, prosecuting the case and seeking feedback on the development of the future network. We need to continue to ensure that environmental concerns are taken into account when balancing the need for competitively priced bills. Without considering the environmental concerns, we will not be able to see the full potential of the blue and green grid systems that have been prioritised by the Greater Sydney Commission's *A Metropolis of Three Cities Strategy*.

It is always difficult to balance the need to reflect customer expectation on the cost of water services with the significant expansion of infrastructure that Sydney Water has planned. The needs of customers are more than the price that they pay for their water, it is also the service that they receive, both now and into the future and the work that this setups in future proofing our future network.

We support the recommendations and capital program that Sydney Water has submitted for the upcoming period. Without these changes and significant capital investment, it will be difficult for Western Sydney to Support liveable communities and a vibrant economy that attracts greater business investment.

Kind regards



David Borger
Executive Director
Western Sydney Business Chamber