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Submission: Wastewater pricing is completely wrong, both currently and in the proposal submitted to IPART. Sydney Water admits as much in section 10.4 "Wastewater pricing" on page 234. Customers should be charged on their generation of waste water, and hence their burden on the disposal system. Charging a flat fee for residential customers is lazy, unfair and inconsistent with water pricing. Industrial users are of course charged by litres of waste water generated (and sometimes its degree of contamination), that is, its total burden on the waste water system. It should be the same for a household.

As a start -- TODAY! -- pricing of waste water should be proportional to (fresh) water used, since this is a first estimate of waste water generated. Its main inaccuracy is slightly overestimating waste water generation, by the use of drinking water in the garden, which we are trying to discourage anyway. So it is a GOOD feature of this pricing, not a bad thing.

If Sydney Water wants to undertake further research, long overdue, and consultation with its customers, as it suggests in section 10.4, that is fine, but is NOT a valid excuse for delaying even longer the start of "cost of use pricing" for wastewater with the very accurate estimate already available.