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Date of submission: Wednesday, 10 October 2012
Submission:

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SUBMISSION TO IPART RE USER PAYS / HUNTER WATER

Following is my submission to Ipart re Hunter Water.

I wish to put forward the unfair situation regarding costs in households which have taken steps to reduce water usage in accordance with Government encouragement to conserve water.

I am a pensioner, therefore consider all expenditure carefully.

I paid to have two tanks installed after purchasing my home in Dungog, one for use to water the garden, the other attached to my washing machine and toilet.

I also had my shower head replaced and toilet replaced with half flush.

As I don't have much other water need I expected this would reduce my bill appropriately.

My actual water use did fall from 52 kilolitres to 11 kilolitres, with a cost of \$22.80. This is reasonable. However the Sewer Service fixed charge of \$173.75 remained high and seems out of proportion to the rest of the bill. The fixed charge for Water Service is \$25.62, which I consider more reasonable

. There does not seem to be an incentive to install costly water saving items.

I submit that for those who have endeavoured to be good citizens, in reducing water usage, consideration should be given in a reduc on of this fixed charge, which is being paid every 6 months at an inflated rate. There has been no alteration in the provision of materials, such as pipes or other fittings or maintenance to justify this charge, so why is it so much higher than the fixed Water Service charge? Am I paying this high amount to subsidise tenants living in unit accommodation who are not considered as on a contract?

Are individual householders being expected to carry an unfair load? I would like this addressed by ipart as I feel that the amount of approximately \$350 per annum for the privilege of having the existing unchanged sewer provision, is too high.

I submit that Hunter Water should be required to adjust its application to reflect a fairer Fixed Sewer charge for individual dwellings and that all households whether in units or houses should be billed according to User Pays principles at a fair rate. One sector of the community should not be expected to subsidise others, who may have taken no steps to reduce their usage, because it would make no difference to their bill.

Please ensure that charges are fairly distributed amongst the entire Hunter Water user population.

Isobelle Joan Dawson, resident /owner, Dungog.