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Your submission for this review:

The financial impact to Local Government dam owners has not been considered. Particularly given that our flood mitigation dams do not generate income, as water supply dams. This has a direct impact on the services councils can then provide to the community. Equity to pay should be considered rather than simply cost recovery. Fairfield's 11 Declared dams are all flood detention basins. They are not water supply dams that generate revenue but provide necessary flood mitigation for the community. The provision of flood mitigation infrastructure is not a commercial operation, it provides an essential public safety benefit, and it should be exempt from the proposed levy. Flood mitigation dams reduce flood risk to downstream properties, which benefits insurance companies and NSW Government due to reduced costs associated with clean up and recovery from a flood. Making councils pay for this risk reduction appears to be a cost-shifting activity by the NSW Government. There are grant funding opportunities available to councils to upgrade flood detention basins to improve flood mitigation efforts, however no such grant funding is available purely from a dam safety perspective. In contrast to water supply dams, flood mitigation dams are mostly dry and therefore there is no risk most of the time. The risk versus time of exposure must be considered. Our firm view is that councils should not have to pay for State Services. This is nothing more or less than cost shifting at its crudest. Councils cannot recover such costs under the State Governments longstanding policy of Local Government general rate pegging, and no increase at all for stormwater charges, without our residents having to forgo other services.