

STORMWATER PRICES **NEED** TO INCREASE

THIS IS A SCAM ENABLED BY IPART

Ever since I have been a property owner I have always grimaced at this levy where Hunter Water gouges the cost of maintaining their asset consisting of some 95 kilometres of Concrete drains in a declare drainage area by order of some Governor in 1938.

Who was that Governor?

I have researched the start of the Water Board Act and the Act of 1991 Hunter Water concerning Stormwater drainage. The area has map creep and as the area is populated by more and more units the number of levy payers is increasing enormously and the corporation certainly has a cash cow with the ever increasing cost which is to rise by 12% to maintain 95 kilometres of drains which have had little attention other than mowing 3 metres from their sides and removing a few trolleys.

This area has increased billing streets that were only gazetted in 2008 having received a map from Hunter Water after a query where a part of street in Lake Macquarie LGA pay the levy even though there is a Memorandum of Understanding with Lake Macquarie Council. I queried the charge only to receive from a person from Hunter Water that she had liaised with our internal teams and confirmed the stormwater boundaries by emailing me a map showing mentioned street which is just a copy of some street directory and not a true copy of declared area of the original map decreed by the then Governor.

Or has another Governor/Magistrate since decreed the area?

If so When?

She and/or the team I believe produced a false and misleading document to me which is a crime - 'produces a document to another person that is false and misleading and not a true copy'.

These drains are visible where ever I drive or walk one starting near my home which still looks the same from when I bought my house, other than mowing 3 metres from its side nothing has changed for 40 years. The career board members, Manager or proposal writer I believe do not live in the declared area or they to could observe ongoing work or even any work. However I have observed some naturalization and work off Croudace Road, Elermore Vale and the end of Cottage Creek but the spend would not have been \$23 million in the present approved 5 years but the levy proposed for the next 5 years is gouging and set to scam from 68,856 levy payers 42.5 million.

Operating costs 25/30:- is 14.8 million, return on assets is 18.9 million, regulatory depreciation 11.9 million which helps with tax but that is still consolidated revenue.

In Hunter Water's financials under Major Capital Works in progress Stormwater Rehabilitation Program 22.3 million dollars May 2022 Underway...Where is this work being carried out please show on a detailed map.

Again not bad for 96 kilometres of concrete drains built in the 1940's but a sting to ratepayers in this cost of living crisis and affordable housing where the Prime Minister, Treasurer and Minister for Water are doing their best to lower costs to NSW consumers.

Numerous occasions I have phoned Hunter Water about attending to the long grass surrounding the drains near my place, my Church and grandchildren's school. I took photos and emailed them to a team they did come out and attend to the area. However before the actual concrete starts on that drain is a creek where the mosquitoes breed in their millions. I am being billed for a natural water way.

Once again taking the levy payers of Stormwater levy to 68,856 or so, in the next 5 year proposal will generate \$42.5 million that is \$447,368 per kilometer which is obscenely expensive to us, but will boost consolidated revenue when there is a cost of living crisis and a housing crisis not to mention the interest rates on mortgages.

What I don't understand is that the ACCC have no jurisdiction as they are relentlessly pursuing Coles and Woolworths for price gouging, or NSW Fair Trading with this very high cost to consumers for stormwater drain levy that were built in the 1940's with a life span of 150 years but the consumer protection agencies cannot be involved as they must **trust** IPART along with the Premier of our State, Treasurer and Minister for Water to be independently **fair** to the consumers of NSW or do they just enable gouging by Hunter Water and end game NSW Treasury.

We will pay enough for Water and Sewerage but Stormwater is gouging.