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Your submission for this review:

This document proposes unreasonably high increases in water pricing, which is unacceptable for such an essential resource. Water access is a fundamental human right, not a luxury item to be marked up at will. The proposed 18% bill increase, followed by yearly 7% hikes plus inflation, places an excessive burden on everyday consumers and raises serious questions about the fairness of such drastic changes. While expanding infrastructure to support Sydney's growth is commendable, this expansion generates long-term revenue opportunities. It is unreasonable to expect customers to shoulder the financial burden of these investments without any commitment to adjust prices downward once the future revenue from growth areas is realized. Price increases should be temporary and revisited, with a clear plan to roll back once new projects begin generating income. Permanent price hikes, on the other hand, unfairly penalize customers under the guise of infrastructure investment. Moreover, it is disturbing to see that the largest portion of capital investment goes towards new growth areas rather than improving existing infrastructure for current customers. Instead of continuously raising rates, Sydney Water and WaterNSW should consider reducing unnecessary operational costs. For example, a 155% increase in capital expenditure for WaterNSW, along with a 16% rise in operating expenses for Sydney Water, seems excessive, especially for day-to-day expenses that should be more efficiently managed. The proposals structure, focusing on fixed charges rather than usage-based fees, imposes a heavier load on all customers, regardless of their consumption. This is particularly unfair to households striving to conserve water and manage their expenses. Customers deserve transparent pricing that reflects usage and rewards conservation, not a blanket increase that disregards individual consumption patterns. Water pricing should be adjusted only as a last resort, with accountability measures in place to protect consumers. IPART and Sydney Water need to revise these price-setting approaches and consider the public's fundamental right to affordable water. The people of Greater Sydney deserve a pricing model that respects water as a basic necessity, not an opportunity for corporate profit.