



23 June 2025

Carmel Donnelly
Chair, NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

Online submission at www.ipart.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Donnelly

Review of Sydney Water Prices 2025-2030

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Report of the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) review of Sydney Water Prices 2025-2030 (the Report).

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 12 councils spanning Sydney's southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, CBD, and inner west and covering a third of the Greater Sydney's population, over 1.8 million people. SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region. We advocate on behalf of our region for major issues to be addressed by all levels of government.

The Report recommends a significant reduction in Sydney Water's planned capital investment for the period. SSROC is concerned that this reduction would limit Sydney Water's capacity to deliver the water and wastewater infrastructure that is critical to support the planned growth in Sydney's housing supply, and would erode its ability to maintain and renew ageing infrastructure.

The National Housing Accord target for Sydney is 265,000 new homes by 2029, which is within Sydney Water's next regulatory period. However, the capital investment recommended by the draft determination would be far from sufficient to enable Sydney Water to deliver the infrastructure necessary for that number of new homes. The cost-of-living benefits of the draft determination would be far outweighed by the social, intergenerational and economic costs of the failure to deliver sufficient housing.

As well as the need for additional infrastructure to accommodate Sydney's growth, continuous investment is critical to maintain and upgrade existing infrastructure in established areas. Water security is essential for life. Inadequate investment today creates unacceptable long-term risks.

In order to make this submission within the timeframe for receiving comments, it has not been possible for it to be formally reviewed by councils or to be endorsed by the SSROC. I will contact you further if any issues arise as it is reviewed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'H Sloan'.

Helen Sloan
CEO

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) Inc