



Local Government Association Tasmania

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **“Work With Us” Call from Local Government**

More than 80% of local councils remain opposed to the hostile takeover of TasWater, or 24 of the 29 councils – with George Town adding to the 23 declared in May.

In a united stance, the mayors or representatives from every one of the 24 councils opposing the takeover of TasWater have stood together holding placards - “Work With Us”.

“The Local Government sector simply can not understand why the State Government would undertake a protracted, unnecessary and likely illegal takeover of TasWater, rather than working collaboratively with councils and providing an immediate injection of funds into TasWater,” said Mayor Doug Chipman, President of LGAT.

“If the Government’s solution is simply to throw money at TasWater, then we say they can do that immediately, without the huge impact of a drawn out hostile takeover.”

Mayor Chipman said “the Tasmanian public might want to know more about where this money is coming from and what other services or infrastructure might suffer as a consequence.”

“It is a high-risk proposition, with a lot of upheaval just to accelerate the capital program by three years, especially when the 24 boil water alerts will be all but removed by the time the State Government could take control,” Mayor Chipman said.

“TasWater have a fully funded ten-year capital plan that keeps prices affordable beyond an election cycle. They have an expert and independent board, and they have community oversight through the council ownership model. They should be allowed to get on with the job,” he said.

**Further information or to arrange interviews: Keryn Nylander 0418 996 536**