



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Budget

“The Local Government Association of Tasmania appreciates the significant Budget task the State Government has had to grapple with and the difficult cuts and reductions in resources and services it has had to make over the upcoming fiscal years” President Barry Easter said today.

“We are pleased that funding has been allocated to continue the much needed planning reforms and consider that the additional funds to provide for more regular valuation cycles will reduce some of the significant fluctuations in valuation data which ultimately impacts on council rating arrangements”

The Association and the Water and Sewerage Corporations had presented to the State Government a case for moving to a new pricing structure for water and sewerage services and are pleased that this arrangement has been agreed to.

“However, we remain extremely disappointed that the previously committed \$26 million for 2011/12 to be paid to the water and sewerage corporations in lieu of the revenue foregone following the Government’s decision to install a cap on pricing, has been diluted dramatically to an amount of \$10.3 million over 3 years. This is not in keeping with previous financial undertakings and is likely to exert significant fiscal pressures on the corporations, President Easter said.

“It is acknowledged that the State Government is facing a mighty reduction in GST revenues but it is sincerely hoped that when Australian spending rebounds and GST revenues are on the increase that the State Government can find it within itself to provide future capital works funding equivalent to that which it has deemed appropriate to divert from this Budget”.

For further information contact Mayor Barry Easter on 0408 334 936

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