



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Healthy Tamar is Far Bigger than Water and Sewerage Infrastructure

“It is great news that the State Government is at last looking to address the health of the Tamar River and the Launceston combined sewerage and stormwater system,” said LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman.

“This is a matter that Local Government and TasWater have advocated on for some time, including through the last Federal Election, where our proposals for a solution were rejected.”

“While undertaking upgrades and improvements on both the sewerage treatment plants and Launceston’s combined sewerage and stormwater system will help the Tamar, much more will be needed to have any tangible impact on the health and amenity of the river.”

“It is misleading of the State Government to imply that their proposed hostile takeover of TasWater will both deliver a solution to the combined system and result in a solution to the Tamar River’s poor health,” said Mayor Chipman.

“The State Government continues to exaggerate the impacts of stormwater overflows, including in their weekend media release. The problem is much bigger than that and the State Government knows it.”

“Studies by NRM North confirm this is a bigger issue than water and sewerage infrastructure. These studies should form part of the Taskforce’s considerations.”

“It will be vital that the new Tamar Estuary Management Taskforce look at the issue broadly and develop a practical and scientific approach to a solution.”

“LGAT welcomes the inclusion of councils on the Taskforce given they have an intrinsic and pivotal role to play, particularly with regard to stormwater management. However, it is disappointing that TasWater have been excluded, given their asset ownership and expert knowledge,” said Mayor Chipman.

Ends....

**For media enquiries, please contact
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