



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councils Considering Treasurer's Advice

Today the Treasurer, Peter Gutwein, met with the council owner representatives of TasWater.

At this meeting, the Treasurer advised that, despite the aggressive 10-year capital works program that is currently being implemented by TasWater, the State Government is "actively considering State Government ownership".

Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) President, Mayor Doug Chipman said this stance has been presented without warning and we are now seeking more information about the State Government's proposition in writing.

"The Treasurer acknowledged that some councils and their communities are highly dependent on distributions from TasWater," Mayor Chipman said.

"Councils use their returns from TasWater to invest in other important local infrastructure and services."

"Councils agree that it is important that Tasmanians have safe drinking water and that resolving boil water and health alerts is a priority."

"We are extremely disappointed that the Treasurer has embarked on such a public campaign before engaging with Local Government because TasWater has made significant progress since it commenced operations three and a half years ago," he said.

"However, the sector is willing to collaborate and work with the State Government to look at all the options to accelerate the pace of the capital works program."

"It is important that the State Government clearly explains why they believe it is necessary to own TasWater," Mayor Chipman said. "Local Government believes that the continued council ownership of TasWater is in the best interests of communities."

Mayor Chipman said following today's meeting with the Treasurer, it is now essential for the owner representatives to take the discussion back to their councils, to work to understand the consequences of what the Treasurer is proposing and to respond to him as a matter of priority.

For media enquiries, please contact

LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman on 0409 704 835 or

TasWater Chief Owner Representative Mayor David Downie on 0418 132 041

