



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**11 May 2017**

## **Local Government votes overwhelmingly to oppose State Government takeover of TasWater**

Today, at a Special General Meeting of the Local Government Association, a clear majority of councils determined through a vote to oppose State Government plans to take over TasWater and will actively campaign to stop it.

Councils heard from the TasWater Chairman Miles Hampton and considered the presentation from the Treasurer, Peter Gutwein to the LGAT Meeting in April before taking the vote. The vote was 23 councils against the takeover, 4 voted for and 2 abstained.

“The majority of Tasmanian councils agreed today that there is no water and sewerage crisis and no advantage in changing ownership of TasWater from Local Government to State Government,” said Acting President, Mayor Daryl Quilliam.

Councils are concerned at the likely long term impacts on debt levels and the viability of TasWater under the State Government’s model. Councils also rejected claims by the Treasurer that they were acting in self-interest.

“We are not acting in self-interest. We are acting in the interests of the community.”

LGAT has now been tasked with mounting a campaign against a change of ownership and has called on the State Government to instead work with TasWater to implement its fully-funded 10-year plan. The campaign will also target the State Opposition as well as the Government.

“Councils do not support the use of important funds from consolidated revenue being used when there is already a fully funded plan in place. They also said there was insufficient information from the Government to back its claims to be a ‘cheaper and quicker fix.’

“We say, where is the evidence? Where is the business case?” Mayor Quilliam said.

Chief Owner Representative, Mayor David Downie said “Councils noted that all current boil water alerts are already on schedule to be removed within 2 months of the State Government taking ownership and that their program could only at best, be completed in 7 years instead of 10”.

Mayor Quilliam said “LGAT will be advocating for more collaborative approach on these issues going forward.”

**For media enquiries, please contact Keryn Nylander Tel. 0418 996 536**

Actual motion passed overwhelmingly today:

**That Members confirm there is no water and sewerage crisis, reject the proposed State Government ownership of TasWater and, through LGAT, urge the State Government to work co-operatively with LGAT, councils and TasWater on the optimal water and sewerage infrastructure upgrade program to achieve the best outcome for Councils and consumers.**