



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Liberal takeover of TasWater is nothing more than a cynical con.

“The Tasmanian Liberals’ announcement on TasWater today is nothing short of cynical attempt to buy votes”, said LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman.

“The Hodgman Liberals are now downplaying their original arguments and have found a different hook to try and hang their plan on”.

Mayor Chipman said, “the Government has falsely assumed that the issue of council dividends was the sector’s only concern about the Government’s previous TasWater takeover attempt”.

“However, there is no crisis in water and sewerage services in Tasmania. TasWater bills are the most affordable in the country and they have in place a 10 year fully funded and transparent plan that is being undertaken systematically and based on need and priority”.

Mayor Chipman said “water and sewerage reform is the single largest micro-economic reform in Tasmania over the past 25 years. It should be asked why the Government is seeking to turn it upside down based on a flawed premise, misrepresentation of data, broad or erroneous assumptions and minimal modelling?”

“The Legislative Council tossed the plan out because it simply did not stack up”.

“As always, the devil will be in the detail and councils, and the Members of the Legislative Council, will need to see detailed modelling, something that was sorely lacking last year”.

“The real question is who really pays for this unnecessary takeover? Is it the large proportion of taxpayers who are not TasWater customers? Is it the next generation of Tasmanians? Is it the users of health, housing and education services?”

“Tasmanian councils are always mindful of cost of living pressures facing their communities but we have to take a very long-term view”, said Mayor Chipman.

“It is important that disproportionate costs are not shifted to future generations - particularly for short-term or minimal gains”.

“The biggest impacts on cost of living are not TasWater Bills. They are housing costs, health and health insurance costs and the cost of education. That is where Government should be focussing attention”.

“At this time, it remains the Local Government sector’s view that a council owned entity, governed by a skilled board and independently regulated, is the approach that delivers the best outcomes for customers and local communities”.

“This model ensures that TasWater does not become a political football at every election with no independent umpire”.

“We continue to seek a more collaborative approach to addressing the water and sewerage task for Tasmania”, said Mayor Chipman.

**For media enquiries, please contact
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