



# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**19 August 2017**

## **TasWater Select Committee Timeframes set to limit input.**

Local Government has just found out the Legislative Council Select Committee investigating the proposed State Government takeover of TasWater will allow just 3 weeks for submissions... with hearings scheduled just one week after that.

“This is very disappointing and likely to hamper proper debate and input by the experts and the industry,” LGAT CEO Dr Katrena Stephenson said.

The call for submissions has only been advertised this weekend, with revised terms of reference, and a closing date for submission of 8 September. The advertisement also notes that hearings will commence mid-September.

“LGAT supports the broad terms of reference which will allow the Committee to consider the flawed concept and legislation, deficient business case, and illegality of the Government’s hostile takeover. However, the timeframes are incredibly short given the significance and complexity of this issue” said LGAT CEO, Dr Katrena Stephenson.

“The State Government did not put the legislation through the preliminary minimum 5- week consultation processes required under the Consultation and Communication Partnership Agreement on the basis of the Select Committee process... but this is now truncated”.

“LGAT will not be able to consult with councils fully in making the submissions. Councils will not have the time to take this matter for consideration at a council meeting. No one will have the time to review other submissions and prepare for hearings in such a tight timeframe.”

“We are concerned the short timeframes will limit the effectiveness of the Select Committee process”.

“This latest information comes as the debate on the second reading of the Bill was abruptly adjourned by the Treasurer Thursday night, following the Opposition raising significant drafting concerns ...further evidence, if any is needed of this rushed, poorly informed, flawed takeover”.

**Examples below of normal Legislative Council committee hearing process:**

- **Acute Health Services in Tasmania Sessional Committee - submissions taken from 8 July to 18 August (6 weeks), no hearings yet scheduled.**
- **Dairy Industry in Tasmania Select Committee -submissions taken from September 2017 through Jan 2017 (approx. 16 weeks) and two weeks between close of submissions and commencement of hearings.**
- **Future Gaming Markets Sessional Committee – submissions taken from 25 August 2016 through December 2016 (approx. 14 weeks) with a 6 week gap before hearings commenced.**
- **King Island Shipping Service Select Committee - submissions taken 30 May - 21 July (7 weeks) and then 2 weeks before hearings.**
- **Tasmanian Child and Family Centres Select Committee - submissions through 15 Feb - 17 March 2017 (4 weeks), hearings commenced 12 weeks later.**

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