



# Media Release

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## Select Committee's correct assessment of impact on councils

TasWater's owners say the Legislative Council Select Committee into TasWater's ownership has correctly identified the adverse impact on councils should the State Government take over the corporation.

Chief Owner's Representative, Northern Midlands Mayor David Downie, said the Select Committee found the sustainability of some Tasmanian councils could be jeopardised if dividends from TasWater were reduced and council rates may have to be increased from 2025.

"Evidence shows that under the Government's plan, TasWater is unlikely to produce any surpluses after 2025, so Mr Gutwein's promise of a 50 percent distribution to councils is worthless," Cr Downie said.

"Fifty percent of nothing is nothing and that is what councils will receive if the Treasurer gets his way.

"The loss will impact significantly on every Tasmanian council and every Tasmanian community."

Cr Downie said Treasurer Gutwein was still trotting out his false claims and highlighting the support of the big end of town to the detriment of residential ratepayers.

"He should admit he simply got it wrong.

"The only point we can agree on is the fact that the water and sewerage infrastructure is owned by the people of Tasmania.

"It is owned by the people and has been paid for through their local councils. Councils are the best owners as they are closer to their communities and more responsive to their wishes and needs.

"On behalf of our communities, we call on the Legislative Council to reject the Government's legislation and let TasWater get on with the job that the Select Committee found it was undertaking in a sustainable and effective manner," Cr Downie said.

Ends...

**For further comment contact Mayor David Downie, telephone 0418 132 041**