



MEDIA RELEASE

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Treasurer Challenged to Release Legal Advice

Tasmanian Treasurer, Peter Gutwein has been challenged to make public the legal advice from the Solicitor-General that he says shows that his proposed takeover of TasWater is lawful.

TasWater's Chief Owners' Representative, Mayor David Downie said if the Government had legal advice that supported its position, it should release it so that Parliament, councils and the community could understand the basis of his claim.

However, Mayor Downie said he did not believe the Treasurer had such advice and supported the legal advice obtained by TasWater that cast serious doubts on the legality of the Government's takeover bid.

"The proposed takeover is either legal, or it is not and Mr Gutwein simply needs to release his advice if he believes it supports his claim," Mayor Downie said.

"Councils hope that the Treasurer would not want to waste the time of everyone, including the Tasmanian Parliament, with a proposal that we are advised may not be legal!"

"He should be able to put an immediate end to this by showing all Tasmanians his advice and attempt to demonstrate how his proposed legislation is legal under company law and the Constitution. His refusal to release that advice indicates that he is unable to do this," he said.

Mayor Downie rejected Mr Gutwein's claim that TasWater's legal advice was 'speculative'.

"TasWater's advice is very clear and this has been made public. It is the Treasurer's claim that is speculative as he has provided absolutely no information," Mayor Downie said.

"Neither councils nor TasWater need or want to spend money on fighting a legal challenge."

"The Treasurer should end this today by releasing his legal advice, if he has it. He should cease his takeover bid and work with Local Government and TasWater in the best interests of all Tasmanians," Mayor Downie said.

**For media enquiries, please contact
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