



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Disappointing Process by Treasurer

“Local Government is in disbelief that the Treasurer chose a national forum to attack local councils as opposed to directly engaging with us,” says LGAT President, Mayor Doug Chipman.

“It is all well and good to say he will meet with council owners this Friday but the invitation and discussion should have happened first.”

“Local Government welcomes the opportunity to correct his claims which demonstrate a limited understanding of the true facts.”

Mayor Chipman says, “The LGAT CEO and I met with the Treasurer only a little over a week ago to discuss our budget submission and rather than outline his concerns to us, he has chosen to ambush the sector in the national spotlight.”

“Councils have proven they are willing to make the tough decisions, already forgoing dividends worth \$82million,” says Chief Owner Representative for TasWater, Mayor David Downie.

“Councils use the return on decades of community investment into water and sewerage infrastructure to aid in the maintenance and renewal of other community assets infrastructure such as local roads and bridges, parks, sports grounds and community halls,” he says.

“Councils aren’t backing away from the task that needs to be done but with TasWater, we are working responsibly and as fast as possible. This work can’t be done overnight and must be managed within ongoing operational requirements,” says Mayor Downie.

“TasWater’s council owners have already agreed to a dividend reduction and support TasWater’s aggressive 10-year capital improvement plan.”

Mayor Chipman says, “Distributions from TasWater to Owner Councils are reinvested into communities through development, renewal or maintenance of other key community infrastructure that also support vibrant communities.”

It is critical that State and Local Government work together on this issue, taking joint responsibility.

For media enquiries, please contact

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