



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**10 May 2017**

### **Special meeting to determine a position on TasWater takeover**

The Local Government Association of Tasmania is holding a Special General Meeting tomorrow (11 May) in Launceston so that councils can determine through a vote, a position in relation to the proposed State Government takeover of TasWater.

Councils will hear from the TasWater Chairman, Miles Hampton, and consider his advice as well as that provided by the Treasurer, Peter Gutwein, to the LGAT Meeting in April.

Acting LGAT President, Mayor Daryl Quilliam says "In late February, the Treasurer dropped a bombshell on councils when he indicated that the State Government was intending to take over TasWater".

"We don't believe there is a water crisis and the way the Government has approached this has been really unhelpful but all along councils have agreed to look at the options".

Mayor Quilliam notes that "since February we have been asking for detailed information to understand the proposal and its impacts on councils and communities. We have had some broad advice but the detail is still missing".

"We listened to the Treasurer last month and allowed him to present his proposal".

"Now we are seeking advice from TasWater, through the Chairman Miles Hampton on what that really means at an operational level" says Mayor Quilliam.

"We want to be sure that whichever direction is taken, that there is genuine improvement in services and that we are not burdening Tasmanians with unnecessary debt".

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