



Media Release

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Single water and sewerage corporation under investigation

The Local Government Association of Tasmania has moved to establish a working group to investigate the issues and implications of moving from the current structure of the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporations to a streamlined single entity.

President of the Association, Mayor Barry Easter, highlighted the need for the matter to be considered by all councils as soon as possible and the preliminary work to be undertaken by the working group will inform those deliberations.

The working group comprises representatives from the three regions of the state and includes the Chairman of the water corporations, Miles Hampton, who briefed the Association on the potential benefits of moving to a single entity yesterday.

In his presentation, Mr Hampton, who took over as Chairman of the corporations in January this year, estimated that savings from the creation of a single corporation would be in the order of \$5 million annually.

“Water and sewerage charges are on the increase in order to replace ageing infrastructure and while the savings of \$5 million annually will not stop the increases, it will slow them down,” Mr Hampton said.

“This will benefit customers and see improved returns to Local Government owners for the provision of other vital services.

“When combined with the \$2.3 million of savings from the recent restructure of Onstream announced a fortnight ago, we can achieve annual savings in excess of \$7 million.”

Mayor Easter said when the four water corporations were created just over two years ago, the move was made to ensure they could deliver the best possible outcomes for the community.

“But time and the experience of the corporations has shown us that there may be improved opportunities to maximise on the reform process by moving to a single corporation,” Mayor Easter said.



“The water corporations and owner councils are interested in getting on with the job of delivering optimum services to the community and the move to a single corporation will help accelerate this.

“The working group will be looking at the issues and opportunities associated with a shift to a single corporation and what sort of governance models would best meet the needs of owner councils.

“There will be a range of legislative implications, but it will be important to canvass with and fully explain to owner councils the key elements of any change prior to moving too far down the path on this issue.

“It is important that we move quickly on this matter, but it is equally important that we are thorough and considered.”

Mr Hampton said from the perspective of the corporations, their staff and customers it was important that the ongoing debate about structures be resolved and the uncertainty in the sector removed.

ENDS

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