



Media Release

Date: 19 May 2010

Re: CMW Welcomes Meter Funding Announcement

Chairman of Tasmania's Regional Water Corporations, Geoff Willis, has congratulated the Federal Government on today's announcement of \$10million of funding for water meters initiatives throughout the state.

Cradle Mountain Water has also welcomed Federal Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator Penny Wong's announcement of federal funding for water meters, which will benefit the regional communities of the North West Coast.

"Senator Wong's funding announcement is a welcome boost for Cradle Mountain Water and it comes at a very appropriate time," Acting CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

"Cradle Mountain Water has committed to rolling out a water meter program as part of our Capital Works Program over the next five years. This program involves the installation of meters in unmetered areas, such as the West Coast and Waratah, and it also provides for the replacement of redundant or out-dated water meter infrastructure with Automated Meter Read (AMR) meters," he said.

"Late last year the State Government received a report by Marchmont Hill Consultants which confirmed that AMR meters were cost effective. They significantly reduce the cost of meter reading, allowing meters to be read more frequently, which means our customers will have access to more up-to-date information on their water usage," he said.

"We are confident that because our municipalities have populations of less than 50,000 that our region will receive a significant share of the \$10m allocated by the Federal Government. These funds will mean that we will be able to roll out our water meter program earlier than the original timeframe of the 2011/2012 financial year. And, more importantly, we will not have to pass on these costs to the community," he said.

"Water meters provide property owners with the opportunity to monitor their water usage, and it also paves the way for Cradle Mountain Water to develop a more equitable pricing system in the future," he said.

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