



Media Release

Date: 7th April 2011

Re: Water Metering Project set to launch in the North West

Cradle Mountain Water is set to commence its Water Metering project which will see a \$13 million investment in water infrastructure for the North West region over the next 6 years.

Cradle Mountain Water CEO, Andrew Kneebone said, "The project will be completed on a staged basis commencing in April this year. The first stage involves the installation of approximately 15,000 meters across the North West region – 6000 of which are new meters in unmetred areas, and 9,000 which are upgrades and replacements to allow for compliance with new technology and replacement of aged meters during the next 18 months. The balance of meters will be upgraded or replaced over the following five years as they wear out."

The areas that are unmetred at the moment that will be receiving meters over the next 18 months are the West Coast communities of Tulla, Rosebery, Zeehan, Strahan and Queenstown. In addition we have some small pockets in the Burnie and Devonport CBD's that require metering as well.

"The main proportion of the metering program for Cradle Mountain Water over the next 6 years is to replace the existing meter fleet," Mr Kneebone said. The fact of this matter is that meters only have a life of approximately 15 years and all meters require replacement over time to ensure accurate readings of water usage are maintained. To put this into perspective we still have meters in the ground today that measure usage in gallons which is an indication of the age of some of the meters that require replacing. The 9,000 meters we will be replacing have been in use for a minimum of 25 years," he said.

"Cradle Mountain Water will receive \$2.5 million of the overall state wide \$10 million funding from the Australian Government's National Water Security Plan for Cities and Towns Program towards this project over the next 18 months. We are very grateful for the Federal government support of this project," he said.

"Water meters are essential tools for measuring water use," Mr Kneebone said. "However, their value goes far beyond their simple purpose of measuring water. Water meters will underpin fair pricing for everyone; help property owners detect water leaks and provide invaluable data that allows the Corporation to better plan, predict demand and potentially postpone or delay expensive upgrades to treatment plants and pipelines. This will allow CMW to concentrate on investing in bringing our sewerage infrastructure up to standard."

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Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation (North-Western Region) Pty Ltd trading as Cradle Mountain Water

“We are working on a plan to reform water pricing so that it is consistent across our region and this relies on having water meters in place. Unless all North West Tasmanians have water meters, we cannot apply fair and equitable water pricing to all customers for the amount of water they use,” he said.

“Under the new pricing plan everyone’s water will be calculated in the same way – with a fixed service charge to cover the cost of infrastructure including dams, reservoirs and pipes, and a separate water usage fee for the water that’s consumed on each property, covering water extraction, pumping and treatment costs”.

Throughout the project, property owners and residents will be kept up to date with information through the media, letters, fact sheets and calling cards. A month prior to installation customers and residents in unmetered areas will receive advice in writing of expected installation timeframes. Customers who require replacement meters will be advised a week prior to installation. Information about the Water Metering project will be updated frequently at www.cmwater.com.au. Customers who have queries are encouraged to contact Cradle Mountain Water’s Customer Service Officers on 13MYWATER (13 6992).

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