

Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation (North West)
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Att. Chief of Staff
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Media Release

Arrival of water chief for north-west marks start of new era

Mike Paine, the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the north western Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation, has arrived in Tasmania to begin the vital task of bringing together the people and assets responsible for water and sewerage in north west Tasmania into a new corporation.

Commencing operations on 1 July 2009, the new corporation – which will be responsible for reticulated water and sewerage services from Latrobe to Strahan – is the result of the State Government's reform of the state's water and sewerage industry. With a trading name yet to be developed, the corporation is one of four which will deliver drinking water and manage sewerage for Tasmania's homes and businesses.

"This is an immensely exciting time to be involved with Tasmania's water and sewerage sector," Mr Paine said. "I am planning to meet with the Corporation's prospective employees located in councils and at Cradle Coast Water over the coming weeks and am looking forward to meeting the team with which I'll be working.

"This change also presents a wonderful opportunity for my family; we're looking forward to living in a beautiful, green part of the world. I visited north west Tasmania some years ago and was struck by both the productivity and natural beauty of the land."

"It's an interesting time to join the industry in Tasmania. From July, there will be one regional water corporation for each part of the state – the north-west, the north and the south, together with a statewide common services corporation to deliver support services to the regional corporations," he said.

"The benefits of holistically planning and managing water and sewerage services through a regional organisation are immense."

Mr Paine said that Tasmanians will directly benefit by:

- Having regional water corporations which are entirely focused on water and sewerage,
- Water and sewerage assets remaining in the ownership of the community, through each local council owning a portion of the corporations,
- The merging of employees and assets from more than 30 local councils and bulk water authorities into three regional water corporations and one statewide

common services corporation will create improved economies of scale and better career opportunities for people entering or in the industry,

- o The sustainable management of the water cycle to ensure the long term protection of one of the state's most precious resources,
- o Minimal replication of administrative elements through the statewide delivery of services such as billing, IT and payroll by the common service corporation, and
- o Corporations building partnerships with stakeholders, service providers and industry to deliver infrastructure solutions which take both short and long term implications into account.

Mr Paine was appointed CEO of the north western corporation following a nation-wide search. He was most recently General Manager, Customer Services at the Geelong-based Barwon Water, which serviced 130,000 customers. He was also CEO of Westernport Regional Water Authority, south east of Melbourne.

His passion for water conservation led to his role as Foundation Director of Savewater Alliance, which nationally promotes water efficiency.

He has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Queensland and a Graduate Diploma in Engineering (Municipal Management). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr Paine has moved to the north west to take up his new role and will be soon joined by his wife and two children when he has found a home for his family.

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