



ABN 13 133 655 062
Tasmanian Water and
Sewerage Corporation
(Northern Region)
Pty Limited



ABN 90 133 655
008 Tasmanian Water and
Sewerage Corporation
(North-Western Region)
Pty Limited



ABN 65 133 654 976
Tasmanian Water and
Sewerage Corporation
(Southern Region)
Pty Limited



ABN 65 133 654 912
Tasmanian Water and
Sewerage Corporation
(Common Services)
Pty Limited

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Media Release

Water industry report highlights challenges ahead

The Chairman of Tasmania's Water and Sewerage Corporations, Mr Geoff Willis released the first Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Industry Report which shows that important challenges lie ahead in the areas of customer relations, pricing reform, the roll out of meters and delivering a \$1 billion capital program over 10 years to bring infrastructure up to the required standard.

"Our first industry report provides an open and transparent snapshot of our first six months of operations and highlights the many achievements and challenges the four new corporations faced," Mr Willis said.

Owned by Tasmania's local councils, the water corporations have a combined asset base of more than \$2 billion and forecast annual revenue of around \$200 million, making them one of Tasmania's largest business sectors.

"Clearly, this is a very important industry providing essential services for the Tasmanian community and six months after start-up we feel confident and remain committed to the reform agenda," he said.

Recent water quality incidents, including more than 200 treatment plant spills, served to highlight the need for reform.

"It is unacceptable that in the 21st century these events are occurring and the corporations are focussed on taking steps to address them," he said.

"We are committed to meeting the standards laid out by the Environmental Protection Authority and the Director of Public Health.

"The corporations are working to make water quality and infrastructure issues a thing of the past by embarking on a \$1 billion capital works program over the next 10 years," Mr Willis said.

"More than 30 capital projects are now underway across the state," he said.

The State Government's 5% price cap for customers was also accompanied by an agreement to fund the corporations up to the original 10% level and so our operational and capital plans were not impacted by this change.

"We are pleased to report that many of our council owners also began receiving financial returns from the corporations before 31 December," Mr Willis said.

The Water and Sewerage Industry Report revealed:

- 620 employees transferred to one of the new corporations on 1 July 2009
- 29 Enterprise Agreements, three awards and two Long Service Leave Acts and associated conditions were maintained
- 14 Lost Time Injuries were sustained and 225 hazards were identified
- 14 temporary boil water alerts were called
- So far \$40 million has been expended on capital works
- Over 68,000 calls were received by the three corporations' call centres in the first six months of operation
- Over 49,000 customers paid their accounts up front
- 38 towns remain on boil water alerts.

Ends

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