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For immediate release

Media Release

Cradle Mountain Water announces CEO change

Cradle Mountain Water today announced that its CEO, Mike Paine, will be moving to Hobart to become the new CEO of Southern Water and that Mr Andrew Kneebone has been appointed Acting CEO of Cradle Mountain Water.

The appointments will become effective from January 2010, when Mr Paine takes up the CEO's position at Southern Water which became vacant when previous CEO, Danny Sutton left it to take up a different role in Tasmania's water sector.

"Cradle Mountain Water's Board expresses its gratitude to Mr Paine as his term as the inaugural CEO has been formative and his contribution has been of the highest order," Mr Willis said.

"The Board wishes him well in his new role with Southern Water, an appointment which clearly reflects the significant experience Mr Paine also brought to the north-west.

"The Board is also pleased to appoint Andrew Kneebone, Cradle Mountain Water's current Executive Manager, Regulation and Strategy, Customer and Communications, to the role of Acting CEO," he said.

"We have every confidence that Cradle Mountain Water will continue to be led by Mr Kneebone with the same high degree of commitment and excellence that helped establish the organisation this year" Mr Willis said.

Since joining Cradle Mountain Water in July, Mr Kneebone has played a vital role in strategy, economic regulation, communications, stakeholder relations, governance and building the organisation's customer service capability.

Mr Kneebone said that he was excited by the opportunity to act as Cradle Mountain Water's CEO and was looking forward to the challenges of the next few months which include developing Cradle Mountain Waters Customer Reference Groups along with long term infrastructure and business plans.

Mr Kneebone was previously in Victoria, where he was General Manager Finance and Corporate Services at Central Highlands Water and held a series of executive roles at Westernport Water, Gippsland Water and in local government and the electricity industry.

Mr Willis said that Cradle Mountain Water had agreed with Mr Kneebone that his appointment would be for an extended period, allowing ample time in the new year for a search process to take place.

Mr Kneebone has a Masters in Business Administration and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Director and Institute of Water Administrators.

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Please note that Southern Water has issued a separate News Release regarding Mr Paine's appointment as CEO of Southern Water.