

Josie Higgins

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Sent: Tuesday, 7 March 2017 3:14 PM
To: Break O'Day Council (E-mail); Brighton Council ; Burnie Council (E-mail); Central Coast Council; Central Highlands Council (Email); Circular Head; Circular Head Council; Clarence City Council (E-mail); Derwent Valley Council (E-mail); Devonport Council (E-mail); Dorset Council (E-mail); Flinders Council; John Martin; Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (Email); Glenorchy City Council; Hobart City Council; Huon Valley Council; Kentish Council; King Island Council; Kingborough Council; Latrobe Council (E-mail); Launceston City Council (Email); Meander Valley Council; Northern Midlands Council; Sorell Council; Southern Midlands Council (E-mail); Tasman Council (E-mail); Waratah/Wynyard Council (E-mail); West Coast Council (E-mail); West Tamar Rolph Vos; Break O'Day Council Mayor Mick Tucker; Brighton Council Mayor Tony Foster; Burnie City Council Mayor Anita Dow; Central Coast Council, Mayor Jan Bonde; Central Highlands Council Mayor Loueen Triffett; Central Highlands Mayor Lou Triffett (ltriffitt@centralhighlands.tas.gov.au); Circular Head Mayor Daryl Quilliam; Clarence Mayor Doug Chipman; Derwent Valley Council Mayor Martyn Evans; Devonport City Council Steve Martin; Dorset Mayor Greg Howard; Flinders Mayor Carol Cox; Mayor Bridget Archer; Glamorgan Spring Bay Mayor Michael Kent; Glenorchy City Council COmmissioner (sue.smith@gcc.tas.gov.au); Hobart City Council Lord Mayor Sue Hickey; Hobart City Council Lord Mayor Sue Hickey; Hobart City Council Lord Mayor Sue Hickey; Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor; Kentish Council Mayor Don Thwaites; King Island Mayor Duncan McFie; Kingborough Council Mayor Steve Wass; Latrobe Council Mayor Peter Freshney; Launceston City Council Mayor Albert van Zetten; Lord Mayor EA; Meander Valley Mayor Craig Perkins; Northern Midlands Mayor David Downie; Sorell Council Mayor Kerry Vincent; Southern Midlands Council Mayor Tony Bisdee; Southern Midlands Council Mayor Tony Bisdee; Tasman Council Mayor Roseanne Heyward; Waratah-Wynyard Council Mayor Robby Walsh; West Coast Mayor Phil Vickers; West Tamar Mayor Christina Holmdahl
Cc: Michael Brewster; Miles Hampton; LGAT All Users; Mail Archive
Subject: TasWater - Urgent

In the Premier's State of the State Address this afternoon (just finished), it has been announced that the State Government will be taking over TasWater from 1 July next year (see link to Examiner below). In doing so they have indicated they have heard Local Government's concerns regarding the financial impacts for councils and communities and have outlined the following:

- Councils to retain dividend (Premier said returns, paper says dividends) payments until 2024-25 and halving of returns beyond that financial year
- Legislation to prevent privatisation
- Commitment to cap bill increases at 3.5%
- Complete capital program in 5 years.

"The model that TasWater is owned by 29 separate councils is not a success story. We propose a new model...state government ownership...it will fix it faster, cheaper for consumers nad without councils having to increase rates".

The GMC are convening by teleconference shortly to consider how to progress as a sector and I will be in touch later today with regard to the next steps.

At this stage LGAT can only comment:

- that this move had been foreshadowed,
- that we dispute some of the facts in play;
- that there has been acknowledgment of the importance of the distributions to councils,
- that there is need to engage more fulsomely with our Members about the issue and;
- that our key concerns remain – namely; the return on investment to communities, the delivery of the capital program in as fast and efficient manner as possible without escalating costs for consumers or resulting in intergenerational inequity.

Further detail tomorrow and councils will be consulted on transition. *Nothing to do with council amalgamations, everything to do with fixing the problem.*

<http://www.examiner.com.au/story/4514025/taswater-takeover/?cs=94>

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