



MEDIA RELEASE

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Council's confidence in TasWater vindicated

Hobart City Council has been vindicated in its rejection of recent government proposals to takeover of TasWater's water and sewerage business.

An independent report from the Bureau of Meteorology - National Performance Report of Urban Water Utilities - has rated TasWater as a best performer with the lowest bills and the highest investment per property for upgrades.

At a special Council Meeting last week, the Hobart City Council voted 9-3 to reject the Tasmanian Government's takeover of water and sewerage systems across the state.

Alderman Dr Eva Ruzicka said: "Our vote was in the best interests of Hobart ratepayers. This fact-based report further erodes any claims of a water and sewerage crisis in Tasmania."

"With 11 percent of Tasmania's significant water and sewerage assets in our municipal area servicing a major urban population, with the lowest bills and Taswater's investment in infrastructure, it's in our ratepayers' best interests to keep TasWater in local government ownership.

"With the Treasurer's lack of clarity over future financial promises, it's clear it has all been about short term political gains in the run up to the State election.

"The independent report is valuable evidence for Council in any discussions with the Treasurer and the Legislative Council over the actual details of his takeover proposal, especially as the government commentary to date seems to indicate ratepayers will just end up with more future debt to pay back," Alderman Ruzicka said.

The full report can be found at <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/npr/docs/2015-16/Urban-National-Performance-Report-2016-high-res.pdf>

ENDS

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