



DEAN WINTER MP
MEMBER FOR FRANKLIN

Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator
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Via email: office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au

To whom it may concern

I write to provide a submission on behalf of the Tasmanian Labor Party to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator's Water and Sewerage Price Determination Investigation.

Labor does not believe the Draft Price Determination, if implemented, would serve the best interests of the Tasmanian public. The proposed annual increases of 3.07% (to 2025-26) amount to an unacceptable cumulative increase of nearly 13%. This will mean a combined increase of \$395 in the average household's water and sewerage bills over the next four years.

Tasmanian families are struggling with inflationary pressures not seen for decades. Of particular concern is the fact these pressures are occurring in areas where families have little to no ability to reduce their consumption. Petrol prices are at record levels, housing in Tasmania has never been less affordable, a new tax is about to be levied on bin collection services and grocery price rises are being recorded in supermarkets across the State. All the basics are getting more and more expensive.

On the other side of the household ledger, wages are not keeping pace with rising costs. Last year Tasmanians experienced one of the largest real wage cuts on record and every indicator points to Tasmanian families continuing to go backwards in 2022.

Given this context, The Labor Party cannot accept such significant increases to basic household costs like water and sewerage at this time.

We urge the Economic Regulator to curb these excessive increases in its final determination.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dean Winter'.

Dean Winter MP
Member for Franklin

18 March 2022