

# Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 1550 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia

Enquiries: Kandy Smith  
Phone: 0472 536 202  
Email: [kandy.smith@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:kandy.smith@epa.tas.gov.au)  
Web: [www.epa.tas.gov.au](http://www.epa.tas.gov.au)  
Our Ref: 24/5230.002 | D25-87672



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

30 May 2025

Frances Smith  
Head of Water and Environment Services  
Tasmanian Water & Sewerage Corporation Pty Ltd  
GPO Box 1393  
HOBART TAS 7000

Email: [Frances.Smith@taswater.com.au](mailto:Frances.Smith@taswater.com.au)

Dear Frances Smith

## **TASMANIAN WATER AND SEWERAGE CORPORATION PTY LTD WASTEWATER RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN PSP5 2026-2030 CONFIRMATION OF EPA ENDORSEMENT**

I refer to your correspondence, dated 16 April 2025, in which TasWater seeks EPA endorsement of the Wastewater Risk Management Plan PSP5 (the WRMP) as required by the 2025-26 Price Determination Investigation process, to fulfil requirements outlined in the *Price and Service Plan Guideline*, December 2023, issued by the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator. The objectives being,

- (i) to deliver prioritised major capital projects identified to address environmental risk during PSP5, and
- (ii) that the processes TasWater employs to manage their environmental responsibility in progressing towards full environmental compliance are considered adequate and appropriate.

In its assessment of the WRMP, the EPA has considered the degree to which the commitments proposed addresses EPA's regulatory expectations for compliance improvements, as expressed in the guidance documents *Guide to Regulatory Expectations for Wastewater Management in Tasmania 2020* and the *Regulatory Framework for Sustainable Discharge of Treated Wastewater from Level 2 WWTPs 2020*, along with environmental risk levels assigned to each of TasWater's 77 level 2 wastewater treatment plants.

My understanding is that the core commitment of the WRMP is to reduce the number of Level 2 WWTP discharges that have been identified under TasWater's Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) process as posing unacceptably high environmental risks. This will see the current level of 18 high-risk Level 2 WWTP sites reduced to a target of 9 sites during PSP5. The WRMP allows a flexible approach to the delivery of risk reduction commitments, necessary due to the complexity of varying stages of planning. TasWater advises this may see some final projects differ from that initially envisaged. I note TasWater commits to achieving the initial, specified environmental risk reduction at each of the nine WWTPs, regardless of final project designs.

Project commitments (as outlined in Table 2 of the WRMP), include:

- those to be delivered to completion in PSP5;
- projects in development during PSP5 that may move to implementation phase during PSP5; and
- projects in development during PSP5 that may move to implementation phase during PSP6 or later.

I note that the WRMP also commits to maintenance of both the current level of treatment and risk at TasWater's medium and low risk WWTPs.

TasWater's Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) identifies the risk level assigned to each plant and TasWater indicates it will continue to be reviewed annually to identify changes to risk levels. The EPA is to be kept abreast of any changes to the high-risk category during PSP5 and annual revisions of the ERA, as they become available.

It is not readily apparent whether specific current permit conditions with set implementation due in PSP5 are considered in the WRMP. These conditions were imposed following a formal consultation process with TasWater and constitute legally enforceable requirements. The EPA will continue to assess compliance against these requirements and consider the application of enforcement actions as appropriate according to EPA's Compliance Enforcement Policy. TasWater must integrate key permit/EPN compliance obligations negotiated with regulatory agencies into its planning and prioritisation process. This includes the Discharge Management Plan condition that is a requirement of a number of level 2 WWTPs.

On balance, the EPA considers that the WRMP sufficiently addresses EPA's priorities for compliance improvement. Hence, I am prepared to endorse the WRMP for PSP5.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact the officer nominated at the head of this correspondence or email [wastewater@epa.tas.gov.au](mailto:wastewater@epa.tas.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Kate Düttmer

**A/DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**

**Delegate for the Director, Environment Protection Authority**

cc: Matt Derbyshire, GM Sustainable Infrastructure Services, TasWater, [Matthew.Derbyshire@taswater.com.au](mailto:Matthew.Derbyshire@taswater.com.au)  
Kate Westgate, Manager Environmental Performance, TasWater, [Kate.Westgate@taswater.com.au](mailto:Kate.Westgate@taswater.com.au)  
TasWater Environment Mailbox, [Environment@taswater.com.au](mailto:Environment@taswater.com.au)