



LATROBE COUNCIL

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From the Office of Mayor Peter Freshney

16 December 2025

Joe Dimasi
Economic Regulator
Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator
The Treasury Building
Level 3, 21 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Sent via email: office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au

Dear Joe,

LETTER OF SUPPORT – TASWATER – PRICE AND SERVICE PLAN 5 – 2026-2030

Latrobe Council wishes to express its support for TasWater's proposed investment program under PSP5, recognising the critical importance of modern, reliable, and environmentally responsible water and sewerage infrastructure for the future of our local government area and the broader Tasmanian community.

TasWater's ageing infrastructure—particularly its sewer network—requires urgent and sustained investment. Currently, 91% of Tasmania's sewage treatment plants do not meet the Environmental Protection Authority's compliance requirements, a situation that poses both environmental and public health concerns, particularly at River Road, Latrobe and Hawley Beach.

Council welcomes TasWater's Statewide plan to invest \$655 million in upgrades to ageing sewage treatment plants, which will improve treatment performance, significantly reduce emissions, and increase the volume of water able to be safely recycled. This work is vital to protecting Tasmania's waterways and preserving the natural environment that our communities value so deeply.

Council is also concerned by the unacceptably high rate of sewer breaks and chokes, with TasWater recording 64 breaks and chokes per 100 km of pipe in 2023/24, compared to the Australian median of 18. Council endorses TasWater's proposal to more than double its investment in sewer main renewals to \$30.1 million under the Price and Service Plan 5 (PSP5), an initiative expected to bring this number down to 20 breaks and chokes per 100 km by 2030. Addressing this long-standing issue is essential to ensuring reliable service delivery and reducing the impact of sewage overflows on our local communities.





Furthermore, Council recognises that significant work remains across the broader water network. TasWater continues to lose more water through leaks than any other water utility in the country, underscoring the need for continued infrastructure upgrades and network modernisation.

The Statewide capital program of \$1.7 billion proposed for PSP5 offers substantial economic benefits. It will not only enhance essential services but also stimulate economic growth and create thousands of jobs across Tasmania.

Importantly, TasWater has demonstrated its commitment to supporting local industry, awarding approximately 80% of its contracts to Tasmanian businesses last year—a practice that Council strongly supports.

Failure to act now risks compounding future costs and constraining our State with outdated, inefficient infrastructure. Early investment enables modernisation, rationalisation, and long-term operational efficiencies—benefits that will deliver enduring value to Tasmanian ratepayers and communities.

For these reasons, Latrobe Council supports TasWater's planned investment program and urges continued prioritisation of water and sewerage infrastructure renewal across our State, balanced with acknowledgement and consideration of the capacity of TasWater's customers to pay increased charges.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Peter Freshney
MAYOR