



2nd December 2025

The Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator
The Treasury Building
Level 3, 21 Murray St
Hobart TAS 7000

Email: office@economicregulator.tas.gov.au
(Attn: Joe Dimasi)

Dear Sir

Re: TasWater – Price and Service Plan 5 (PSP5)

This letter of support is provided by the Southern Midlands Council to the Tasmanian Economic Regulator following a presentation by TasWater to a Council workshop in November 2025.

Council acknowledges the importance of investing in water and sewerage infrastructure that supports population growth, liveability, and regional development across Tasmania. We also recognise the extent of research, analysis and investigation undertaken by TasWater in preparing PSP5.

Following TasWater's briefing, Council fully appreciates the urgency of addressing TasWater's ageing infrastructure, particularly its sewer network. A significant proportion of sewage treatment plants are currently unable to meet the EPA's compliance requirements. TasWater's plan to invest \$655 million state-wide in upgrading these facilities promises substantial environmental benefits – improving water quality in Tasmania's waterways, lowering emissions and increasing opportunities for recycled water use.

Council further notes the unacceptably high number of sewer breaks and chokes experienced compared to other major water businesses across Australia. In 2023-24 TasWater recorded an average of 64 sewer mains breaks and chokes per 100km of pipe, compared to the Australian median of 18. TasWater's proposal to increase investment in sewer main renewals to \$30.1 million in PSP5 – more than double the expenditure in

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PSP4 – is expected to reduce this figure to 20 breaks and chokes per 100km by 2030. Council considers this to be a critical and long overdue investment.

Specifically for the Southern Midlands Council area, Council acknowledges the significant benefits associated with the proposed Blackman River Dams Upgrades (estimated cost \$22.6 million). This investment will provide essential capacity for future growth while ensuring that dam infrastructure meets contemporary safety requirements.

More broadly, Council also recognises that further work is required across the state's broader water network, with TasWater continuing to experience the highest rate of water loss through leaks of any water utility in the country.

In closing, Council notes that the proposed state-wide capital program of \$1.7 billion under PSP% represents a substantial economic stimulus, creating thousands of jobs and delivering opportunities for local businesses. Importantly, approximately 80 percent of TasWater's contracts were awarded to Tasmanian companies last year, highlighting the local economic benefits of this investment.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwin Batt', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

Edwin Batt
MAYOR