

FACT SHEET

WATER AND SEWERAGE CORPORATIONS BILL 2008

- The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to the reform of the structural elements of the water and sewerage sector in Tasmania.
- The bill provides for the establishment of three regional corporations that will have the provision of water and wastewater services to their regions as their primary focus.
- A fourth corporation to be owned by the regional corporations will also be established by the Bill. The role of this corporation will be to provide common services to the regional corporations.
- The regional corporations will be operated under local government ownership, with any dividends to be payable to owner councils.
- The Bill provides for the transfer of water and sewerage assets, liabilities and employees of councils and bulk water authorities to the regional corporations or the common services corporation.
- The transfer will commence as soon as practicable after the commencement of the Bill, with a target date for completion of 1 July 2009. It will be given effect by one or more gazettal notices, the authority for which is provided by the Bill.
- The Bill also provides for the establishment of the governance arrangements for the new structural model.
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- The governance arrangements are based on those that apply to State-owned companies in Tasmania, but have been adapted to be relevant for local government ownership and the regional model, for example the Bill contains a number of checks on the Corporations' constitutions and the issuing of shareholders' letters of expectations.
- It is also intended that each of the regional corporations will be subject to annual scrutiny through the Government Business Enterprises Scrutiny Committee process.