



ABN 13 133 655 062  
Tasmanian Water and  
Sewerage Corporation  
(Northern Region)  
Pty Limited



ABN 90 133 655 008  
Tasmanian Water and  
Sewerage Corporation  
(North-Western Region)  
Pty Limited



ABN 65 133 654 976  
Tasmanian Water and Sewerage  
Corporation (Southern Region)  
Pty Limited



ABN 65 133 654 912  
Tasmanian Water and Sewerage  
Corporation (Common Services)  
Pty Limited

7 March 2012

Ms R P White MP  
Chairperson  
Parliamentary Select Committee on the Cost of Living  
Parliament House  
Hobart TAS 7000



Dear Ms White

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Parliament's Cost of Living Select Committee inquiry.

Through our interactions with nearly 200,000 customers across the State, the Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporations are deeply aware of the competing pressures many families face for their household disposable income.

The Corporations have therefore taken a number of steps to ensure that price increases within their sector are minimised. We are:

- proposing price increases for residential customers' fixed charge of \$50 per service, at most, for each of the next three years;
- negotiating appropriate timelines with the sector's regulators for rectification of services currently not meeting regulatory requirements to reduce this impact on pricing;
- targeting real reductions in operating costs for services currently provided;
- pooling projects regionally or statewide where possible and running competitive tendering processes to provide lowest cost capital inputs to infrastructure upgrades; and
- levying developer charges to ensure consumers' annual charges do not have to cover expansion of the water and sewerage network.

While not directly containing the cost of water and sewerage services, the Corporations are also:

- offering flexible payment plans to customers in genuine financial hardship; and
- installing water meters in the south and providing customers with information on how to reduce wastage on the volumetric component of their water bills.

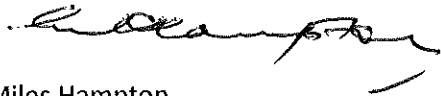
Further, the Corporations support the maintenance of:

- the current concessional arrangements for the sector; and
- the pricing determination role the Economic Regulator plays in balancing the needs of the business with the protection of customers.

Within this framework, the Corporations plan to deliver water and sewerage services in the most cost efficient manner and thereby slow the rate of increase in prices required to achieve improved infrastructure for the Tasmanian community.

Thank you again for the chance to comment on this important inquiry.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miles Hampton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miles Hampton  
Chair  
Tasmanian Water and Sewerage Corporations