

FACT SHEET

WATER AND SEWERAGE INDUSTRY (CONSEQUENTIAL AND TRANSITIONAL) AMENDMENT BILL 2009

- The *Water and Sewerage Industry (Consequential and Transitional) Amendment Bill 2009* makes minor amendments to the *Water and Sewerage Industry (Consequential and Transitional) Act 2008*.
- The Bill will facilitate the commencement of parts of the Act to occur at different times.
- This will enable the amendments to the *Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation Act 1995* to commence prior to the full transfer of assets scheduled for 1 July 2009.
- This will enable the regulated entities to develop additional organisational capacity leading up to full transfer of assets, liabilities and employees on 1 July 2009.
- The Bill expands the transitional provisions contained in the Act to improve the operation of the provisions and clarify the original policy intent.
- The Bill clarifies that a council or bulk water authority can issue a notice to collect and recover a charge for water after a person becomes a customer of a regulated entity if that charge was incurred prior to full transfer. This provision is also stipulated in respect of trade effluent charges incurred under the *Sewers and Drain Act 1954*.
- In addition, the Bill formalises charging arrangements in the transitional period. This is the period from when a person becomes a customer of a regulated entity until such time as they enter into a contract with the regulated entity for the provision of a regulated service or trade effluent service. Therefore, the Bill clarifies the original intent of the Act by allowing the regulated entities to charge its customers in the transitional period on the same basis as if that customer were a customer of a council or bulk water authority.
- The Bill allows changing arrangements in the transitional period to be varied in accordance with an Interim Price Order that is issued under the *Water and Sewerage Industry Act 2008*.
- The Bill does not represent a change in the policy intent of the Act. Rather, it expands and refines the existing provisions to improve the operational effectiveness of the Act.