



Att: Chief of Staff; News Editor; Producer
21 September 2006

Media Release

Tasmania's east coast communities sign up for water and sewerage assistance

Water and sewerage infrastructure in Triabunna, Orford, Swansea, Coles Bay and Bicheno will be audited and improved following the appointment this week of Hobart Water by Glamorgan Spring Bay Council to advise and guide future projects.

A booming population, ageing infrastructure and prolonged drought have combined on Tasmania's east coast to cause a precarious situation this summer for local communities, according to Glamorgan Spring Bay's Mayor, Cr Howard Harris.

"By appointing Hobart Water to audit our five town systems and guide us through a prioritised list of works, we feel confident that we will soon have enough information and technical input to make the right decisions, Cr. Harris said.

"Upgrading both water and waste water system is now a huge priority and a costly undertaking. By tapping into Hobart Water's detailed knowledge and expertise about water systems, Council will be able to make more informed decisions and move more quickly to improve the infrastructure.

"With so much growth and development on the coast, we need help managing vital services."

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Hobart Water have this week signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which initially sees Hobart Water working with Council to:

- Improve surety of water supply to Swansea,
- Undertake an audit of water and waste water in the council's five townships and prioritise necessary projects according to greatest need, and
- Help Council develop a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan for the region.

Hobart Water's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Christine Mucha, said the audit would enable Council to more efficiently and cost-effectively manage local infrastructure.

"All over Australia, councils and water utilities are feeling the pinch as the skills shortage bites. At Hobart Water, we're able to assist rural councils manage their water needs by using our state-of-the-art systems and expert engineers, catchment scientists and asset management specialists," Dr Mucha said.

Cr Harris said the appointment of Hobart Water to assist Glamorgan Spring Bay Council would complement the regional approach which the three local councils – Glamorgan Spring Bay, Tasman and Sorell – were undertaking to address water and waste water issues.

ENDS

Media contact:

For further information or to speak to Cr Harris or Dr Mucha, please contact Hobart Water's Marketing & Community Relations Manager, **Tiziana Botti** on **6233 2230** or **0409 421 080**.