



Media Release

Tuesday, 26 March 2019

Glenorchy residents spared water debt

Glenorchy City Council has successfully negotiated an agreement with the Australian Government to decommission the Derwent Park Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse Project, sparing ratepayers a debt of \$7 million and greatly improving water quality in the River Derwent.

A settlement has been reached, which will see Council sell its assets associated with the stormwater treatment portion of the scheme – half the proceeds of which will go to the Commonwealth and the remaining funds used to deliver other key projects, including:

- A gross pollutant trap at Gepp Parade frontage to filter rubbish and debris and improve the quality of stormwater flowing into the River Derwent;
- An additional \$20,000 to the Derwent Estuary Program to assist in targeted water quality improvement initiatives;
- A project with local environmental volunteers to manage weeds and restore native foreshore vegetation in Prince of Wales Bay;
- A new street-scale bioretention basin in the Glenorchy CBD to help filter pollutants from urban stormwater discharge into the Derwent; and
- An additional \$100,000 to the management of Wellington Park to assist in the upgrade of the fire trail network, which protects drinking water catchments for Greater Hobart and reduces sediment entering the Derwent River.

Glenorchy Mayor Kristie Johnston said the agreement was a significant outcome for ratepayers on a legacy issue inherited from the previous administration, playing a critical role in Council's promise to deliver a manageable budget.

"Council took the brave and responsible decision to decommission the Scheme last year because we recognised it was going to operate at a huge expense to our ratepayers," Mayor Johnston said.

"The water treatment scheme was running at a significant loss and therefore not financially sustainable for Council. However, the flood mitigation measures have been successful and continue to operate.

"We have been working cooperatively and productively with the Australian Government to achieve the best possible outcome for Glenorchy residents.

"Council will now be able to deliver a range of other initiatives to support the original intent of the project, improving water quality in the River Derwent, reducing water use, protecting potable water supplies and supporting environmental outcomes."

ENDS

For further information

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