



13 November 2020

## Media Release

---

### Hydrant pilot program success ahead of bushfire season

To help keep Tasmanian communities safe ahead of the upcoming bushfire season, TasWater has piloted a new fire hydrant inspection and testing program to improve the reliability and performance of its fire hydrants.

Information gained through the pilot program, which was carried out in the state's north and north east, will be used to help ensure firefighters and emergency personnel can access water when it's needed most.

TasWater Capital Delivery Office (CDO) Hydrant Testing Pilot Project Manager, Michael Peters, said regular inspection and testing of hydrants is necessary not only to meet regulatory requirements, but also to help keep Tasmanians safe.

"TasWater owns approximately 33,000 hydrants across the state. It's a massive and important job to ensure they're maintained and ready for use in the event of an emergency," he said.

The pilot program included developing a new app that assists in locating and testing TasWater's fire hydrants. While the app was designed primarily to help record inspection results, it has ultimately delivered a more streamlined and efficient testing process, allowing staff to report hydrant test results on the same day the work is completed.

Local Tasmanian company AJ Water and Leak Detection were engaged to deliver the pilot, providing important feedback regarding the design and roll-out of the program on the ground.

"The tools we've developed and the things we've learned during the pilot will help us refine our existing program of hydrant inspections and maintenance, and to prioritise maintenance more effectively," Mr Peters said.

"The success of the program will make access to hydrants easier and more efficient for our emergency service personnel, which will also help keep our communities safe as we head into bushfire season."

Ends...