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Media Release

TasWater welcomes new Blackmans Bay Beach water test results

TasWater is pleased Blackmans Bay Beach test results have come back safe for swimming.

We will continue investigating a range of factors which may have led to the high readings of enterococci bacteria in the first place.

TasWater CEO Michael Brewster says part of this investigation will involve DNA fingerprinting of the enterococci bacteria in an attempt to determine a source. Enterococci are an indicator of the presence of faecal material in seawater.

There are many potential sources including warm-blooded animals like seabirds, native animals and household pets. It can also be found in seaweed and beach vegetation.

“While the DNA tests may not give us a definitive answer it is part of working through the process to identify what happened and what we can do about it.”

To date, TasWater has identified no sewage blockages, pipe breaks or any abnormal discharge from sewage treatment facilities or pumping stations which may have contributed to the unusually high reading of enterococci which resulted in the beach closure.

The latest testing by the Kingborough Council of stormwater in the Blackmans Bay Beach have also come back with low levels of bacteria.

“We acknowledge the concern of the community and TasWater will keep working with councils, Derwent Estuary Program and the State Government who is fulfilling its responsibilities through the Environment Protection Authority in maintaining the water quality of beaches on the Derwent.

“In the meantime, I encourage beachgoers to always take note of advice from councils and the Department of Health, and we will keep you informed when our findings become available,” Mr Brewster said.

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