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Media Release

TasWater working to keep our beaches clean

TasWater welcomes the commencement of the 2018/19 Derwent Estuary Program's Beach Watch water quality monitoring program which provides up-to-date information for swimmers at Hobart beaches.

Additional data from increased summertime testing of recreational water quality helps TasWater, the DEP and Councils to identify if persistent sources of contamination come from natural sources, unauthorised connections of private sewers to councils' stormwater systems or leakage from TasWater's sewers.

TasWater is a proud partner of the Derwent Estuary Program and it is encouraging that regular water quality monitoring shows most of the Derwent Estuary's beaches are safe for swimming. TasWater continues to work with local councils and the DEP to expand investigations into areas of historically poor recreational water quality.

The Nutgrove Beach investigation is an example of how sampling, investigation and diagnostic checks can identify private plumbing cross connections as well as damaged sewers that require remediation.

Also identified are leakage paths allowing flow between the sewer and stormwater systems via intersecting pipe trenches. Robotic CCTV surveys have identified pipes that required repair with trenchless repair techniques predominantly used along Lipscombe Avenue and Sandy Bay Rd, avoiding disruptive excavations.

Leakage between the sewer and stormwater systems is also being addressed at Blackmans Bay Beach with TasWater and Council working together to complete repairs.

TasWater and council will now move on to other suspected trouble spots in the Blackmans Bay area to carry out a similar program.

Ongoing monitoring of the water quality at Blackmans Bay and beaches across Hobart gives some assurance to beach goers that the water remains suitable for swimming. Where it is not safe for swimming, Councils will issue timely warnings and we would encourage swimmers to follow any advice on beach signage.