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Media Release

Tasmanians will not accept more misinformation about water and sewerage prices

Within 24 hours of calling the 2018 State Election, Premier Will Hodgman has repeated the falsehood that a re-elected Liberal Government will lower water bills.

TasWater Chairman Miles Hampton said the government had clearly not learned from its failed hostile takeover of TasWater, which was rejected by the Legislative Council.

“The truth is that the Liberal Government has only ever promised to increase prices, albeit at a slightly smaller rate than what is currently being considered by Tasmania’s independent economic regulator.

“One of the many reasons the Legislative Council rejected the takeover of TasWater was that the government could not provide any credible financial modelling for its pricing proposal, which TasWater calculated would create \$1.44 billion in government debt.

“Any real saving for customers would be minimal, with an average customer in 2024 saving \$58 per year, or just over a dollar per week, while government debt would increase by \$2,674 per customer, which the Liberals will need to cut from health, education and other essential services.

“Last year the Auditor General confirmed that our customers currently have some of the lowest prices for water and sewerage services in Australia, \$300 a year below the national average.

“Our focus is on the health of our customers and their environment, and the Liberal Government should leave TasWater to get on with our job instead of peddling the same old falsehoods which have already been rejected by independent experts and the Tasmanian Parliament.”