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For immediate release

Media Release

Southern Water announces new CEO

Southern Water has announced that Mike Paine, the current Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Cradle Mountain Water, will become the new CEO of Southern Water.

Mr Paine's appointment will become effective at Southern Water from January 2010, when he will take up the CEO's position which became vacant when previous CEO, Danny Sutton left it to take up a different role in Tasmania's water sector.

"Southern Water's Board is delighted that Mr Paine will lead the organisation going forward," the Chairman, Mr Geoff Willis said.

"Mr Paine has considerable experience in the water and sewerage industry. Following a national search, he was appointed CEO of Cradle Mountain Water in late 2008 and will now take his considerable skills to Southern Water," Mr Willis said.

Before joining Cradle Mountain Water, Mr Paine was General Manager of Customers and Communication at Geelong-based Barwon Water and before that was CEO of Westernport Regional Water Authority, south east of Melbourne.

His passion for water conservation led to his role as a Foundation Director of the Savewater Alliance, which nationally promotes water efficiency.

"I'm very pleased to take on the new role and to work with a new group of professionals," Mr Paine said. "I'm now looking forward to working for the communities of southern Tasmania, which have their own challenges.

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“In particular, the recent Government announcement to roll out water meters and engage in significant capital works programs means that customer engagement will be absolutely critical. There is a huge job ahead and I am looking forward to leading Southern Water’s employees in delivering crucial outcomes to all the communities it services,” Mr Paine said.

Mr Paine has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Queensland and a Graduate Diploma in Engineering (Municipal Management). He is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mr Willis also announced that Andrew Kneebone, Cradle Mountain Water’s Executive Manager, Regulation and Strategy, Customer and Communications will be Acting CEO of Cradle Mountain Water from January 2010.

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Please note that Cradle Mountain Water has issued a separate news release regarding Mr Kneebone’s appointment as Acting CEO.