

Attn: Chief of Staff; News Editor

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**For immediate release**

## Media Release

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### Southern Water provides new job opportunities for young Tasmanians

Employment opportunities for young Tasmanians living in rural areas have been boosted with a decision by Southern Water to recruit six plumbing and electrical apprentices to work in its regional water and wastewater Service Delivery division.

The successful applicants will commence training with the new council-owned corporation, which provides water and wastewater services across southern Tasmania, at the beginning of 2010. The five plumbing apprentices will be based in Ranelagh, Triabunna, Bothwell, Kempton and Sorell while the electrical apprentice will work out of Bicheno.

Executive Manager Service Delivery, Mr Ian Dunbabin, said that as a new organisation with a bright future Southern Water had a lot to offer young Tasmanians completing Grade 10, 11 or 12 at the end of 2009.

“When Southern Water was formed on 1 July this year we brought together a dedicated team of people from the local government sector with a wealth of experience in the water and sewerage industry,” he said.

“However, we recognise that it is also important to plan for the future by giving young school leavers the opportunity to build a career in the water sector. We are committed to serving our customers and we have a major capital works program to deliver. We need skilled workers across the business to help us do that.

“As a state, Tasmania faces enormous challenges in ensuring our vital water infrastructure keeps pace with growth and development and meets community expectations. That means planning for the future to ensure we have the expertise we need in our workforce, particularly as some of our workers reach retirement age.”

Mr Dunbabin said the six apprenticeships were being offered in conjunction with training provider, Australian Employment Services.

“The successful candidates will be expected to complete a three year apprenticeship, gaining a Certificate III in Plumbing or Electrical through a combination of on the job training and more formal course work offered through the Polytechnic,” he said.

“Our qualified tradespeople will provide support and mentoring for the new apprentices every step of the way. I would encourage any young school leaver who may have already completed a prevocational or VET course to apply. It is a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a company that is building for the future.”

Southern Water currently has a workforce of about 320 employees recruited from the former Hobart Water and 12 local councils. Advertisements for the new apprenticeships will appear in the weekend press. Full details will be available on the Southern Water website, [www.southernwatertas.com.au](http://www.southernwatertas.com.au).

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