

Attn: Chief of Staff; News Editor; News Producer

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**For immediate release**

## Media Release

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### **SOUTHERN WATER BEGINS WORKS ON THE SALAMANCA SEWAGE UPGRADE**

Work to resolve long-running wastewater problems affecting the historic Salamanca precinct begin today when Southern Water commences the first phase of the \$1.5m upgrade of infrastructure in the area.

Executive Manager Service Delivery, Mr Ian Dunbabin, said that since the corporation had taken over responsibility for water and wastewater services across southern Tasmania on 1 July this year it had thoroughly investigated the issues and evaluated long and short term solutions in conjunction with the Hobart City Council.

“As one of the premier tourist areas in Hobart, it’s important that water and wastewater services in Salamanca are of the highest standard,” he said. “The first phase of the upgrade is scheduled well before the peak tourist season to avoid events such as the Taste Festival, increased cruise ship visits and the busy Christmas /New Year trading season. We also want to ensure there are no repeats of previous problems in the area that impact negatively on local traders and on the image of this vibrant area.”

Mr Dunbabin said the works are the first part of a prioritised plan to further upgrade and improve the wastewater services in Salamanca. This will address a number of issues which are contributing to the problems in the area including the infiltration of stormwater into the wastewater system, siphon line difficulties and the poor performance of ageing infrastructure.

“The pump station was originally built in 1912 and many of the pipes and equipment, which were installed in the 1950s, are no longer performing at optimal levels,” he said. “The current work will help to reduce odour problems, while also addressing occupational health and safety issues for our employees.”

He said every effort would be made to minimise any inconvenience to members of the public and businesses operating in the immediate vicinity of the work while the upgrade was under way. Consultations would be held with affected businesses and local residents before the commencement of the upgrade.

“Weather permitting the work is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete. We will continue working closely with traders in the area to minimise the impact of our construction activities including the use of jackhammers, generators and other equipment. There will also be a

number of vehicles, including a crane and pumping trucks operating in the area. We appeal to members of the public to take extra care during this period and observe the special traffic management arrangements operating for the duration of the work.”

The next phase of the upgrade, including construction of a new pump station, is scheduled to commence in March 2010.

In the meantime, Mr Dunbabin said the upgrade work would continue to be supported by an increased inspection and monitoring program, regular flushing of the siphons and high pressure cleaning of the sewers. Investigations also would be made in conjunction with the Hobart City Council to determine the level of stormwater entering the Kelly Street Catchment.

“We’re confident this combined approach will overcome many of the problems that have affected the Salamanca area over a long period of time with better outcomes for locals and visitors alike,” he said.

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