

TASWATER

AN ADVERTISING FEATURE

TASMANIA has done well to contain the health impacts of COVID-19.

Now it's time to set our minds on invigorating the economy to get back on a pathway to normality, and at TasWater, we are ready to respond.

As an essential service provider, TasWater has continued to work through COVID-19 to maintain water and sewerage services to our customers.

The restrictions have been challenging, but we have also maintained our role as a builder of infrastructure and through our capital development program, TasWater aims to play a vital part in Tasmania's recovery from the pandemic.

TasWater has a 10-year plan to invest \$1.8 billion in upgrading and building water and sewerage infrastructure across the state.

We are now three years into this plan, which includes a range of projects, the majority of which continued during COVID-19 restrictions, particularly the planning and development phases.

A key component of this is the work of TasWater's Capital Delivery Office (CDO). TasWater Alliance Program Manager Ian Penman said TasWater's CDO has continued to operate, working on the design of projects, associated costings and developing work schedules.

"A construction project set to start shortly is the upgrade of the Bryn Estyn Water Treatment Plant near New Norfolk," he said.

"It's the largest, single, infrastructure development in TasWater's history, with an investment of up to \$200 million over the next three years.

"Of the TasWater CDO's project work to date, Tasmanian-based consultants and contractors have been awarded more than 90 per cent of the contract value, providing local work opportunities and representing about \$82



WORK GOES ON: Lifting a new roof on to the Prince of Wales Bay Sewage Treatment Plant digester tank as part of its \$5.1 million upgrade.

TasWater given more time on new pricing plan

TASWATER'S new Price and Service Plan, scheduled to come online in July next year, has been delayed due to the coronavirus.

The plan outlines TasWater's pricing policies, service standards and infrastructure program over four years. TasWater's Regulation and Strategic Policy Manager Ben Morris said the company had completed its community consultation sessions just before the onset of coronavirus.

"These sessions helped us to understand customers' views on how our performance should be measured, our priorities, developer contributions for new infrastructure and sewerage charging," Mr Morris said.

"We were on track to submit our proposed Plan to the Economic Regulator when COVID-19 hit. Recognising the potential impact, the State Government extended our existing Price and Service Plan by 12

months until the end of June 2022, enabling us to now consider the changed economic environment."

TasWater has also frozen all price rises until July 2021, as part of its Coronavirus Customer Support Program. "We look forward to re-engaging with customers on the new Plan and remain committed to our existing. Regulator approved, service commitments until then," Mr Morris said.

million flowing into the Tasmanian economy.

"There is also a further anticipated investment of \$28

million in additional contracts to be awarded over the next three months.

"In the next financial year,

about \$170 million in projects will be undertaken across the state," Mr Penman said.

Early examples of these are

scheduled sewerage upgrades at Latrobe, Launceston's Blackstone Heights, and Wellington St in George Town.

There is also work planned to upgrade water mains at Gretna, as well as from Lake Fenton in the Mt Field National Park to Hobart, and in the Berriedale and Claremont area, all contributing to growth for the Tasmanian economy.

TasWater's infrastructure plan is designed to meet our number one priority, to provide Tasmanians with clean and reliable drinking water and ensure sewage is safely taken care of.

It will also help provide economic stimulus, assisting the state's recovery from COVID-19.

TasWater – Community Update Southern Tasmania

New roof in place for Prince of Wales Bay STP digester

TasWater's upgrade of the Prince of Wales Bay Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is progressing well, and remains on-target for completion by October 2020.

Project Manager Greg Aimer said it will enable TasWater to accommodate the increasing demand for sewage treatment across Moonah and Glenorchy, as well as protecting the environment.

"Overseen by TasWater's Capital Delivery Office (CDO), the estimated \$5.1 million-dollar project had to contend with the significant engineering challenge of removing a massive 50-tonne floating roof from the STP's digester."

"Working in tandem, two cranes lifted the lid; the manoeuvre made tricky due to a lack of space."

"Limited space again presented a challenge with the new cover, too big to be transported to the treatment plant in one piece. Instead it's been manufactured in modules and assembled on-site," Greg said.

This week, another crane lift successfully installed the new roof, weighing in at just over 30 tonnes.

As well as the replacement of the ageing roof, TasWater is also

replacing other vital infrastructure including the biogas systems, sludge heater, heat exchangers and all the biogas pipework, along with installing new electrical control systems.

The capture of biogas, a by-product of sewage treatment, produces energy to heat the digestion process.

The installation of a new control system and biogas waste flare also significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring we are protecting the environment.

The upgrade work is crucial to ensure the plant can service the community for generations to come.

Greg Aimer said the upgrade is another demonstration of how TasWater's Capital Delivery Program is contributing to our economy and supporting local businesses and jobs as Tasmania progresses through the COVID-19 period.

The work at the Prince of Wales Bay Sewage Treatment Plant will extend its operating life until 2060.

TasWater CDO Project Manager Greg Aimer on-site overseeing the replacement of the digester roof at the Prince of Wales Bay Sewage Treatment Plant

