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**GLAMORGAN SPRING BAY
COUNCIL**

MEDIA RELEASE

Organisation: Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
Contact details: Mayor Michael Kent
Subject: Spring Bay Regional Raw Water Scheme
Date: 20/06/2016

The Glamorgan Spring Bay Council has suggested to Tassal that any fresh water bathing scheme that Tassal require for their operation in Okehampton Bay could be up-sized to assist broader economic development opportunities within the Spring Bay area.

These opportunities include the Solis development at Louisville Point (which requires around 300ML per annum of fresh water for the proposed golf course), local agricultural irrigation opportunities and securing of long term water storage capacity to cater for future municipal growth. Tassal is happy to support the Council and the economic development of the local community by having the scheme be larger than Tassal needs, to service other users.

The East Coast of Tasmania is frequently subject to long periods of low rainfall, punctuated by intense rainfall events. As Tassal, and potentially other users, will require a relatively certain and continuously available flow, a large storage dam is proposed. The location identified for this dam is on a single farming property on the Tea Tree Rivulet. This dam will capture flows during wet weather events and store water so it can be available during drier periods. As an indication, records show that since 1965 there have been 640 times when Prosser River flows exceeded 1,000ML in a single day, and 237 days when flows exceeded 3,000 ML in a single day. The dam will not adversely impact other Prosser River water users, it only acts to capture and store water during wet periods for later use.

The proposed fresh water scheme is at the concept stage only. The proposed dam site is suitable for a dam of up to 3,000ML in capacity. The ultimate size of the storage dam will be dependent upon when other water users requirements are included.

TasWater will be able to be part of this scheme, either now, or at some point in the future when and if they judge it necessary to upgrade potable water supplies to the Orford/Triabunna area.

Council are prepared to consider owning the scheme for the benefit of all users and to facilitate economic growth of the Spring Bay area, provided that the scheme is self-funding, i.e. a user pays model.

Council has a note in the draft 2016/2017 budget that it has requested approximately \$6 million dollars in borrowings from treasury with \$4.5 million dollars earmarked for a southern water supply and \$1.5 million earmarked for the Solis development. These have not been included in the budgetary figures of Council for 2016/2017 and will only be included if approved by Treasury and the project commences. Also, Council approval, based upon a detailed business case, will be necessary before any project begins.

The ratepayers will not be asked to fund the scheme. The dam and water scheme would be owned, operated and managed by the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council so it is able to recover costs from users and enable the economic development of the Southern East Coast area.

Ends

For more information please contact Mayor Michael Kent. Phone: 0418 120 770