

Huon Bruny Region
**Water and
Sewerage
Master Plan**

2025



Since creation, the Palawa have lived in Lutruwita – Tasmania. More than 2,000 generations of Aboriginal families have cared for this Country, looking after its lands, seas, skies and waterways.

In the spirit of respect and gratitude, TasWater acknowledges the Tasmanian Aboriginal community as the traditional and ongoing custodians. We pay our respects to them, their culture and to elders past and present.

TasWater commits to working collaboratively and respectfully with the Tasmanian Aboriginal community to protect and sustain the precious resources on this ancient land for future generations.

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This is Version 1.0 of the Huon Bruny Master Plan which will be updated following community and stakeholder feedback. The latest versions of all nine Master Plans will be published at www.taswater.com.au where ongoing submissions and comments are welcome.

Planning for the region

TasWater has created nine regional Master Plans to share our 50-year vision for infrastructure investment in water, sewerage and recycled water.

The boundaries of the nine regions consider council areas, population, availability of water, the existing network, economic growth and industry investment potential.

These plans are based on a detailed review of how well our current infrastructure and operations meet minimum service standards. We considered issues like how our regions are growing, how well our systems are performing, and climate change.

We then explored different options to make sure we can meet communities' current needs and long-term expectations – all in line with our Corporate Plan. Our aim is to invest in the right infrastructure, in the right places, at the right times to provide the most benefit to Tasmanians and our environment.

Our Master Plans are flexible, and we will adjust them as new information comes to hand. At key points in time, we will seek feedback from our customers, communities and stakeholders so that we don't lose sight of what's important to you.

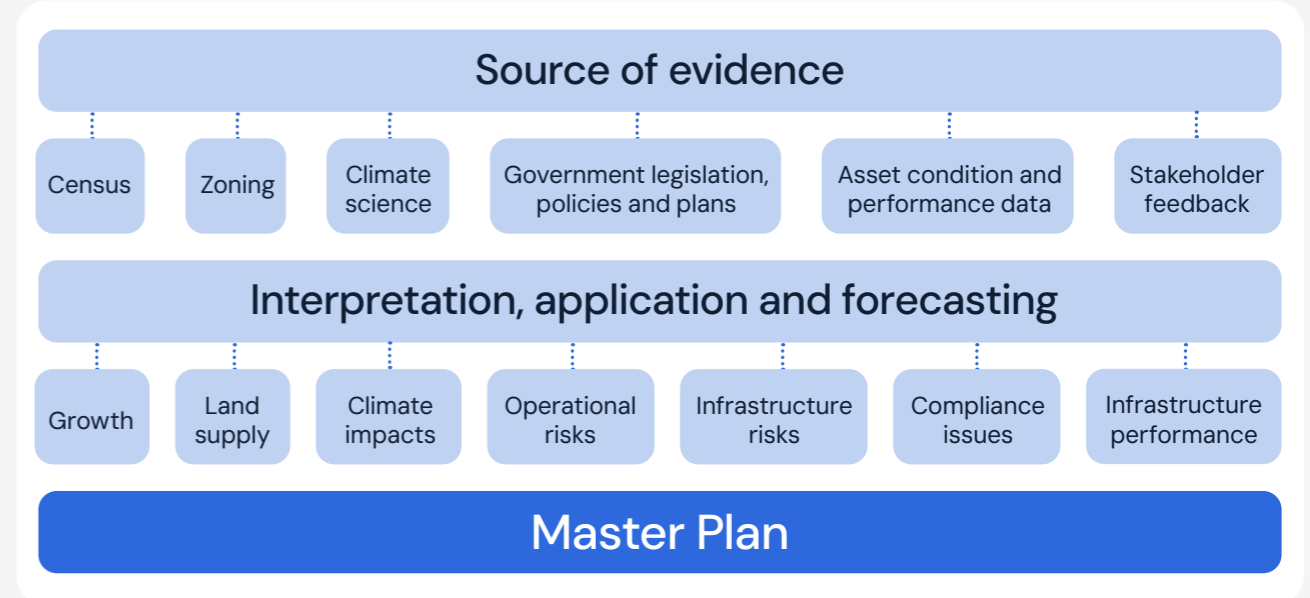
Our process

At TasWater, our infrastructure planning begins with gathering reliable data – including census figures, zoning, climate science, government policies, asset performance, and stakeholder feedback. This helps us understand current conditions and identify future needs. We then forecast growth, land supply, climate impacts, and infrastructure risks.

These insights guide our master planning, where we assess options and plan for future infrastructure upgrades or new assets. The process will be continually refined over decades as conditions change, ensuring our plans remain

responsive and aligned with community needs, environmental goals, and regulatory requirements.

We will continue to update our planning as new information becomes available, including through ongoing engagement with councils and stakeholders. The process is iterative, with a full review undertaken every four years as part of our Price and Service Plan development. This ensures infrastructure priorities are aligned with both our annual budgeting and long-term capital planning, helping us deliver infrastructure that is timely, cost-effective, and responsive to community needs.



About the region

The Huon Bruny region is one of Tasmania's best known food, brewing, and tourism destinations with the Huon River and D'Entrecasteaux Channel supporting agriculture, aquaculture and forestry.

Some of the region's main centres are Huonville and Cygnet, and there are many smaller towns throughout the Huon Valley and on Bruny Island.

The region has four water and six sewerage systems as well as a recycled water scheme to support the region's residents, businesses and farms. In addition to the TasWater systems, Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service, and the Department of State Growth own and operate small sewerage schemes.

Much of the region's water and sewerage infrastructure began as part of small, localised systems that were once fit for purpose. However, over time there has been underinvestment in our infrastructure as well as changing community expectations about how we manage growth and operate sustainably.

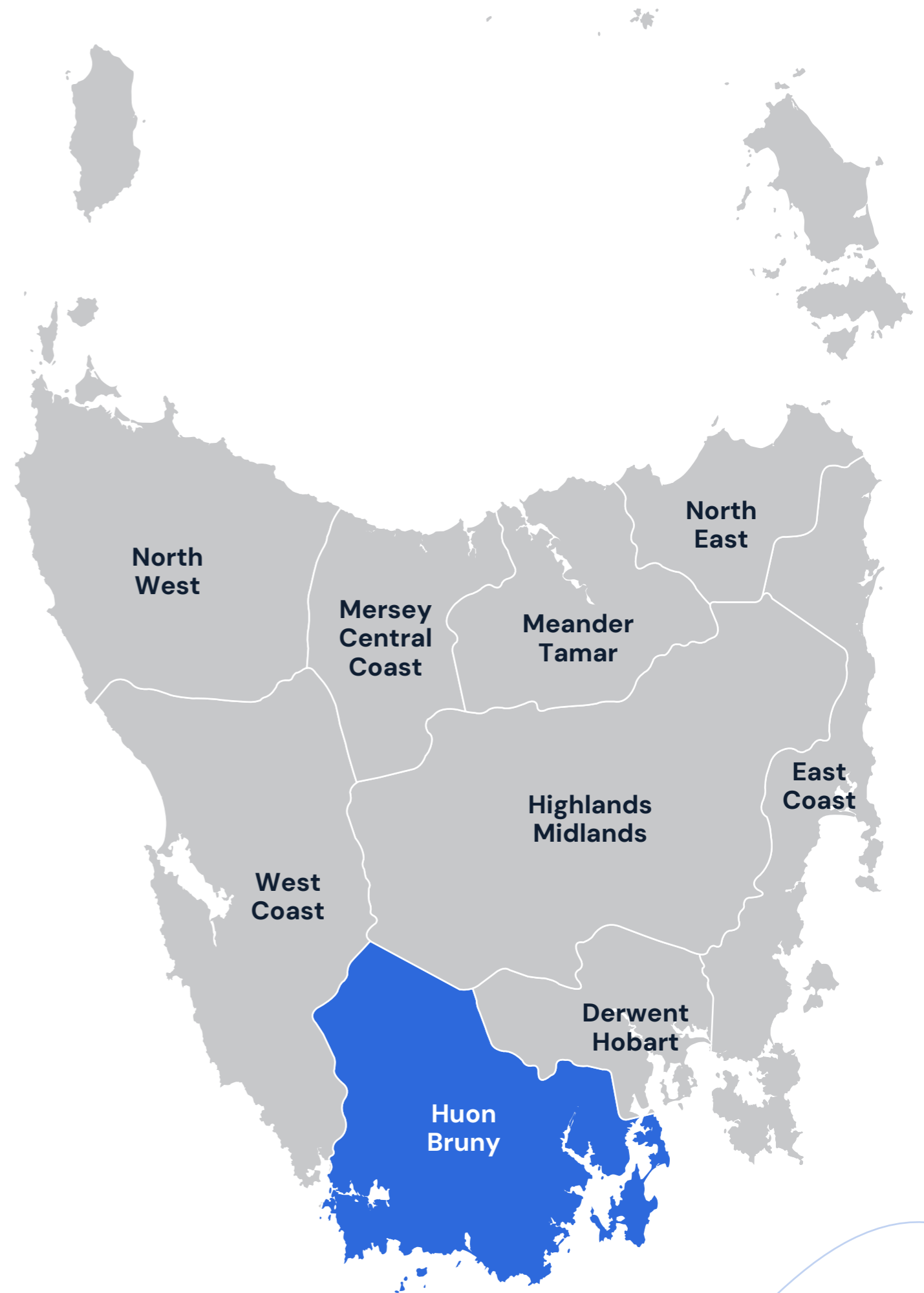
That's why in areas like Cygnet, we moved the treated water outfall from the town's sewage treatment plant offshore and below the seabed. This initiative, along with upgrading six local sewage pump stations, significantly reduced impacts on the sensitive marine environment. We know that many other smaller towns also need investment in projects to reduce our environmental impact and support growth. This is part of our plan.

Growth areas

Over the next 50 years, the Huon Bruny region's population is expected to grow slowly. We have identified a possible 1,300 lots of land in our service areas which could be developed if zoning allows. Future growth areas are likely to be around Huonville, Port Huon, Cygnet and Dover.

However, there are a range of scenarios which make forecasting growth difficult. For example, on Bruny Island any significant growth in tourism and residential development may bring forward the need to upgrade the water system. Geeveston and Cygnet also have large areas of land around the towns which could be used for residential development if there was enough demand.

While we can't know for sure when and where development will occur, TasWater will continue to monitor data that informs our Master Plan and be ready to adjust our strategy as needed.



Huon Bruny region key statistics



CASE STUDY

Two-year program to protect Dover

TasWater worked in the Dover community from 2023 to 2025 to overhaul the town's sewerage system and better protect its seaside environment and lifestyle.

Before the upgrades began, sewage infrastructure in Dover had aged to the point where it posed real risks to the environment and community health. This had included closures of Kent Beach when water quality was affected by discharges from the Dover Sewage Treatment Plant's outfall pipeline.

TasWater's priority project was to replace the deteriorated above ground outfall pipeline with an underground pipeline 340m offshore from Knobbys Point. This pipeline, twice the length of the old one, enables treated water to more efficiently mix and dilute in Port Esperance Bay's currents.





Subsequent projects involved upgrading seven western and north shore sewage pumping stations including electrical works and installing underground emergency storage tanks. These tanks help to manage the large amounts of stormwater that can enter the system in wet weather, and can lead to overflows into the environment. A new pipeline was also constructed from Francistown Sewage Pump Station to the Dover Sewage Treatment Plant.



How we service the region today



Legend - infrastructure

-  Water treatment plant
-  Sewage treatment plant

Challenges and opportunities

In developing our Master Plans, we have considered challenges that our state will face in future, as well as ones that are unique to the Huon Bruny region. We also thought about the flip side – what opportunities are there for us to better support local people, our environment, cultural heritage and the economy?

The big issues



Ageing infrastructure, with many assets in poor condition



Inadequate water allocations in our licenses



Water treatment plants operating at capacity



Very high levels of water loss in our systems (non-revenue water)



Inundation of coastal assets as the climate warms and sea levels rise



High risk discharges from some sewage treatment plants



Opportunity to produce more recycled water

Climate change

Based on past trends and climate modelling, Tasmania is expected to keep getting warmer and we may face rising sea levels and more droughts, bushfires and intense weather.

A warmer climate affects how much water we have, its quality and how much our customers need to use. This puts extra pressure on our water supply.

Changes to the seasons – like shorter winters and longer, hotter summers – can also affect water quality. When there are algal blooms and low oxygen levels in our rivers and dams, water can be harder to treat and there can be changes in taste, smell and appearance.

For our sewerage systems, like the ones in Cygnet and Huonville, rising sea levels and more storms and floods put treatment plants and pump stations at risk of inundation. This also increases the likelihood of sewage overflows when stormwater gets into our pipes.

Climate change could mean we need to build new infrastructure, operate our systems differently or find other ways to manage water.

Water security

Our drinking water comes from rivers and groundwater bores around the region before it's treated and delivered to our customers.

Already, some rivers that supply our water treatment plants have periods of low flow and the licensed water allocations we receive are not always enough to keep up with demand.

If we continue to see drier conditions, river flows could drop further – making it harder to meet unrestricted water demand.

To help us avoid water restrictions, we will need to continue to make sure we have enough water to go around and encourage our customers to value and conserve water at home and work. TasWater has a [Water Security Strategy](#) in place to guide our long-term water management.

Keeping up with growth

If the region's population grows over the next 50 years, our pipes, pump stations, reservoirs and treatment plants won't have the capacity to keep up.



CASE STUDY

From boil water alerts to the best drop in the state – Rocky Creek has our best tasting tap water

Rocky Creek in the Huon Valley has come a long way in its water quality journey.

In 2025, water from the Rocky Creek Water Treatment Plant took out the coveted title of best tasting water in Tasmania.

In the IXOM Best Tasting Tap Water competition held in Devonport, water samples from 11 treatment plants around Tasmania were judged on colour, clarity, odour and taste.

Rocky Creek water stood out for its crystal-clear appearance and refreshing taste.

Water in Rocky Creek was previously subject to boil water alerts before TasWater upgraded the water treatment plant in 2018 under the 24 glasses Regional Towns Water Supply Program.



Our infrastructure is also ageing, with some of it approaching the end of its intended operating life.

We will need to upgrade or replace many of our assets so we can continue to deliver safe, reliable services. This comes at a high cost, so improvements will have to be prioritised based on criteria like development timing, community benefit and compliance with laws and performance targets.

In some areas, there may be a need to connect unserved communities to water and sewerage systems for the first time. This may be to support new development, address climate change or environmental impacts, or enhance water reliability or sewage treatment in smaller towns. As outlined in our Service Introduction Charges Policy, service introductions are only considered when there is community support, and if servicing costs can be recovered.

Water where it belongs

Around 50 per cent of the water we produce in the Huon Bruny region doesn't end up reaching our customers. We call this 'non-revenue water' and we are working to cut these losses. Non-revenue water is from pipe leaks, theft, metering errors or uses like firefighting or system flushing.

We are also working to reduce the amount of stormwater that gets into our sewerage systems and can cause overflows. This infiltration can come from leaks, breaks and incorrect private plumbing connections.

If we reduce these problems, we may be able to delay costly infrastructure upgrades. This means we can provide services to more people using the same infrastructure for longer.

Achieving compliance

Like all water utilities, TasWater is subject to a range of environmental and health-based laws and targets.

Health-based targets help us to assess the quality of the water we supply to customers while environmental licenses set limits on any discharges from our infrastructure into the surrounding environment.

We know that due to age and underinvestment in our treatment plants, pumps and pipes over a long period, some of our infrastructure does not meet compliance targets. We are working to close the gaps and have made great progress in areas like water quality and reliability. In the Huon Bruny region, projects like building new water storages at Dover and Franklin are helping to boost capacity in our water systems.

Our 50-year vision for the region

After looking at a range of options to guide our long-term investment in water and sewerage infrastructure, our preferred approach balances climate resilience, water security, customer expectations, environmental and health compliance, and cost.

This Master Plan is based on what we know today – it's a guide only. The location, timing and cost of new and upgraded infrastructure are not set in stone and we will remain flexible and adapt as the region continues to evolve.

Our plans for the region's water and sewerage systems are outlined in the following pages. We have provided a summary of the current situation, the initiatives we propose to address key challenges, when works may occur and the outcomes we hope to achieve.

We are excited about the potential to build on what we have now to protect and enhance the Tasmanian way of life.

You are welcome to let us know what you think. Visit the TasWater website and look for the [Your Say](#) page.

What will it cost?

Initial estimates have been developed to help understand what it will cost to roll out improvements identified in the Huon Bruny Region Master Plan. The total cost could be around \$86.4 million for sewerage infrastructure and \$51.7 million for water infrastructure over the next 50 years.

We will continue to work with our stakeholders and customers to make sure any spending is on the right things at the right times. We believe our approach represents a wise investment in the region's future because it:



Tackles the most urgent issues right away



Delays major spending until later, helping manage budgets and adapt to future changes



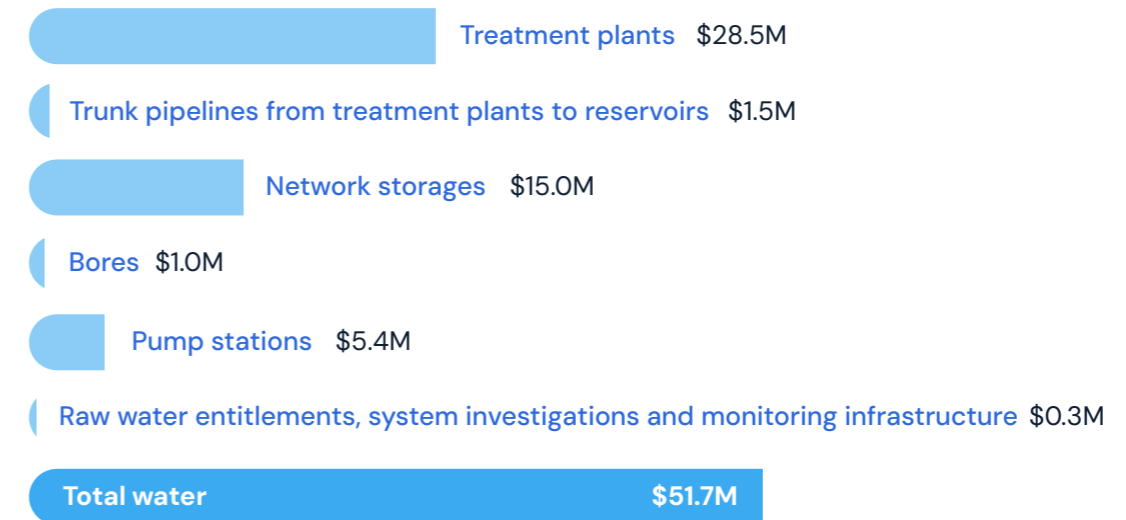
Reduces the need for, and number of, complex projects like new dams, treatment plants and long pipelines



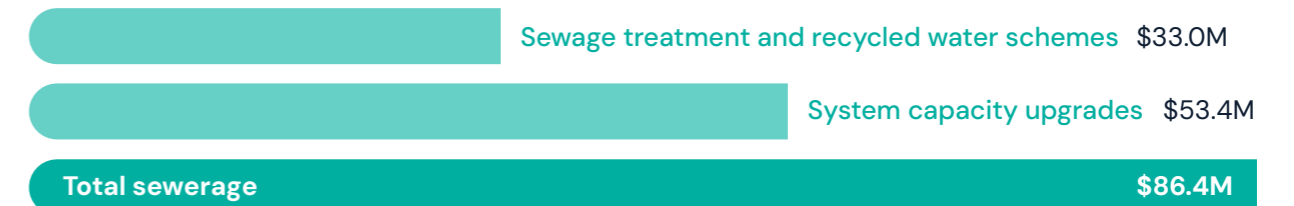
Has a lower long-term cost (net present value) and development cost (capital cost) when compared with other options considered.

Estimated cost (\$million over 50 years)

Water







Sewerage



Note: Costs shown are 2025 budget estimates for major infrastructure projects and programs, and are subject to change. They do not include allowances for maintenance, renewal or replacement of ageing assets, or general infrastructure operating costs.



Our water plan

Area	The situation	What we plan to do	Outcomes
<p>Huon Bruny including these systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huonville • Rocky Creek • Dover • Bruny Island (Adventure Bay) 	<p>Raw water sources are generally reliable, with the Huon River standing out as a sustainable, long-term source.</p> <p>However, water allocations for Dover under existing licenses are not likely to be adequate for future demand. The water supply on Bruny Island also faces ongoing challenges, particularly in holiday periods.</p> <p>Most of our water treatment plants operate near capacity in peak periods and the Dover and Bruny Island plants can be unreliable at times.</p> <p>A critical issue across all systems is very high water loss (non-revenue water) which may be from old, leaky pipes.</p>	<p>We propose to replace the water treatment plants at Dover and Bruny Island, and any future capacity issues at Huonville could be addressed by augmenting the treatment plant.</p> <p>If demand in the Rocky Creek area grows significantly, we may service part of the area from Huonville Water Treatment Plant using existing pipeline connections and upsizing some of these.</p> <p>On Bruny Island, more secure water sources will be investigated.</p> <p>Additional water allocations for areas like Dover are a priority, and water losses from all systems will be investigated.</p> <p>All initiatives are considered important for the short-term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Enhanced water quality  System efficiency and reliability  Capacity for growth  Reduced water loss from our systems

Huon Bruny water

① Huonville

- Augment the Huonville WTP by refurbishing existing plant.

② Rocky Creek

- Consider rationalising to Huonville WTP

③ Dover

- Conduct further yield assessment modelling.
- Increase water allocation.
- Build a new WTP on the existing site.

④ Bruny Island (Adventure Bay)

- Investigate the availability of other surface water sources in the vicinity.
- Upgrade the Adventure Bay WTP.

- Immediate / short term (by 2035)
- Medium term (2035 to 2050)
- Long term (2050 to 2070)
- Progress at any time if/when the opportunity or need arises



Our sewerage plan

Area	The situation	What we plan to do	Outcomes
<p>Huon Bruny including these systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranelagh (Huonville) • Geeveston • Cygnet • Dover • Southport • Woodbridge 	<p>Forecast growth in the region is steady, and our systems are set up to manage it. However, any significant development may require a rethink of our servicing strategies.</p> <p>Infrastructure across the region is ageing and our sewage treatment plants don't always perform well. Treated water discharges from all plants pose risks to receiving environments that must be addressed through upgrades and process improvements. There are no recycled water schemes in the region to help manage this issue.</p>	<p>We propose to find new sites for the Woodbridge Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) in the short term, and Ranelagh and Cygnet plants in the medium to long-term and build modern facilities. Sites will need to be out of the flood zone and away from homes. In the meantime, upgrades to some plants may be needed.</p> <p>The Southport STP may need replacing if there is much growth in the area.</p> <p>We plan to look for opportunities to introduce recycled water schemes across the region where there are enough customers and costs can be recovered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  More sustainable infrastructure  Environmental compliance  System efficiency and reliability  Greater climate resilience

Huon Bruny sewage

Growth

In all towns there is more identified land supply for development than projected growth. This presents a risk that growth could exceed our projection and adds difficulty when determining what is appropriate growth to plan for.

① Ranelagh

- Local upgrades are required at the Ranelagh STP including inlet works, biosolids processing, and wet weather operation changes.
- A new STP site may be considered in the future to move away from nearby houses and the river inundation area. When major upgrades are required in future this should trigger the move.
- A recycled water scheme is not likely to be viable but opportunistic small-scale reuse may be possible.

② Geeveston

- A new outfall is currently being progressed.
- Undertake process improvements at the existing plant.
- Explore limited recycled water supply.

③ Cygnet

- The existing site is at risk of future sea level rising above the lagoon water level, and coastal erosion. A new STP site should be investigated before any major capital works are undertaken at the site. The new STP should be located to retain use of the newly commissioned outfall.
- Explore limited recycled water supply.

④ Woodbridge

- A replacement STP and establishment of a secure recycled water scheme at Woodbridge is required.

⑤ Dover

- Monitor and upgrade the Dover STP as required over time.
- Explore limited recycled water supply.

⑥ Southport

- Southport STP will be retained in the long-term. Only very limited growth is projected in this small system.

- Immediate / short term (by 2035)
- Medium term (2035 to 2050)
- Long term (2050 to 2070)
- Progress at any time if/when the opportunity or need arises





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