



Media Release

Date: 2nd February 2011

Re: Testing Begins on Queenstown Water Treatment Plant

Cradle Mountain Water has begun testing on the new water treatment plant in Queenstown, which if successful could see the plant supplying residents with water by the end of February.

Initiated by West Coast Council, this project consists of the construction of a new water treatment plant, two new reservoirs, and new reticulation networks in parts of the town. Once operational, water from the treatment plant will be filtered, pH adjusted, chlorinated and fluoridated to Department of Health & Human Services requirements.

The council appointed contractor began work on the \$2.5m project in early 2009 and it was originally anticipated that it would be completed by November 2009. However, when Cradle Mountain Water took over the management of the project in July 2009, numerous issues in relation to the contractor's design and installation became apparent resulting in significant delays in delivering the project.

"When we began managing the treatment plant project some major flaws with the contractor's design and installation were discovered and while we worked with the contractor to address these, it was apparent that given the scope of the work and the limitations of the contractor, the best solution was for our staff to rework certain elements of the project," CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

"The subsequent redesign, reinstallation of equipment and rebuilding of some of the plant elements has added months on to the completion date, and I appreciate that many residents in Queenstown have been frustrated by this. However, we need to be certain that the plant is consistently capable of delivering the volume and quality of water that we want," he said.

"Our crews and subcontractors have spent over 2500 man hours on the restoration work since June last year. The next step is to start testing the plant for reliability and to address any minor issues that may arise. If testing proves successful, Cradle Mountain Water plans to commence supply from the plant by the end of February."

"While this is an exciting time for the residents of Queenstown and Cradle Mountain Water, we need to be mindful that the changeover process is not without risk. Given the age of the distribution system in Queenstown there is a possibility that there will be some pipe failures during the change over," he said.

(more...)

“We have done extensive hydraulic modeling of the system and installed pressure regulating devices to limit the impact, however this does not guarantee that there will not be any problems. However, Cradle Mountain Water is committed to renewing the reticulation pipes on an ongoing basis which will help improve reliability over the medium term,” he said.

“I would like to thank the Queenstown community for their patience while we addressed the problems associated with this project. It has been a huge undertaking for all involved, and long overdue, but residents can be assured that very soon they will be able to drink crystal clear water straight from their taps – a great result for all.”

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