



## Media Release

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**Re:** Official Opening of Queenstown Water Treatment Plant

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Cradle Mountain Water's newest water treatment plant will be officially opened in Queenstown tomorrow.

Initiated by West Coast Council, and then taken over by Cradle Mountain Water as part of the water and sewerage reform, the \$2.5m water treatment plant is part of a \$5.0m project being undertaken to update the water infrastructure in Queenstown. Other components of the project include two new reservoirs and new reticulation networks in part of the town.

"This is an exciting time for Queenstown and for Cradle Mountain Water," CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

"Since 2009 we have worked in partnership with West Coast Council to continue to address the water quality issues faced by the Queenstown community and it is fantastic to get to this point where we are able to supply fully treated water to the township," he said. "The successful completion of this project is a clear example of the benefit of the water and sewerage reforms.

"Prior to the development of this plant, the water in Queenstown was supplied by four sources, all of which provided different water quality and volumes. Although these supplies were disinfected and fluoridated, only one of these sources had a form of treatment which consisted of a very basic filtering system."

"However, the water supplied from the new treatment plant is settled, filtered, pH adjusted, chlorinated and fluoridated to Department of Health & Human Services standards," he said.

"The plant has undergone significant testing over the last few months and we are now able to supply water to parts of the town. This gradual changeover of supply from the current water sources to the new plant allows us to monitor the impact of the new water supply on the aged reticulation network, as well as monitor the water quality," he said.

"As the work progresses on the treatment plant we will begin to supply water to the other areas of the township," he said.

(more...)

“While this is a great day for our Queenstown customers, it is important that they are aware that there may be some teething problems associated with the new water supply. In some instances, the changed supply will reverse the flow direction of the pipe work, which could dislodge small silt deposits in the pipeline. Therefore, customers may expect to see fluctuating water quality during this start-up period, but this would only be temporary,” he said.

“Given the age of the infrastructure in Queenstown, there is also the possibility that pipe bursts may occur, however our crews will be monitoring this situation closely.”

“I would like to thank the Queenstown community for the patience during this project. It had been a huge undertaking for all involved,” he said.

**-ENDS-**

