



Media Release

Date: 16th March 2011

Re: Queenstown Water Treatment Plant Update

The newly constructed Queenstown Water Treatment Plant is only days away from supplying drinking water to parts of the township.

“The plant has been running in testing mode for the past two weeks, during which time we have been able to identify some commissioning issues, which are now being rectified. However, the good news is, the quality of the water produced during the testing period is good and we are now undergoing testing to prove compliance,” CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

“Given the results of the testing period, we are now planning to commence supplying water to parts of the town during the next two weeks. This partial changeover of supply from the current water sources to the new plant will allow us to monitor the impact of the new water supply on the aged reticulation network, as well as monitor the water quality,” he said.

“While this is fantastic news for our Queenstown customers, it is important that they are aware that there may be some teething problems associated with the new water supply. For example, the changed supply will in some instances 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 be temporary. We will be undertaking a program to flush reticulation pipes prior to the commencement of supply to the town in an effort to limit these problems,” 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,” he said.

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

Customers are encouraged to contact 13MYWATER (13 6992) if they experience any problems or notice any leaks throughout this period.

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