

waterworks

NEWS FROM TASMANIA'S WATER INDUSTRY

MAY 2011



Works begins on Campbell Town water treatment plant

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES in Campbell Town and Ross are a step closer to having treated water with earthworks beginning on the site of a \$5.2 million water treatment plant.

Ben Lomond Water Chief Executive Officer, Barry Cash said that residents and businesses in Campbell Town and Ross faced only one more winter without treated water.

Mr Cash made the comment while inspecting the site where earthworks have begun. He was joined by engineers overseeing the project and Ben Lomond Water directors.

"It is good to see this kind of progress being made," Mr Cash said.

"Significant work has been completed off site and this will assist to reduce construction time," he said.

"We are grateful for the patience of our customers in Campbell Town and Ross with some delays experienced in recent months.

"I think the community will be pleased to see that we are moving closer to providing treated water," Mr Cash said.

Campbell Town and Ross have been under a boil water alert since February 2010 and Ben Lomond Water continues to provide access to clean water at the Campbell Town

football ground and Ross fire station.

With the move to two-part pricing, Ben Lomond Water will also install water meters in the area by June 2012.

"Campbell Town and Ross are two of a small number of towns in the Ben Lomond Water region which are not metered," Mr Cash said.

"It is, therefore, necessary to install meters within the next year and this will be

done in conjunction with the treatment plant project," he said.

"Metering and two-part pricing are also expected to reduce water consumption and the treatment plant has been sized on that basis," Mr Cash said.



Ben Lomond Water CEO, Barry Cash with directors, Sarah Merridew and Liz Swain.

Major pipeline duplication to ensure Hobart water supply

SOUTHERN WATER is undertaking a major pipeline duplication project to ensure a secure water supply in greater Hobart.

The West Derwent Pipeline is a bulk water supply line that brings water from the Bryn Estyn Water Treatment Plant to supply customers on both the eastern and western shores. About 160,000 people can receive water via the pipeline at

any one time — up to 70 million litres a day.

The section that will be duplicated runs from Berriedale to near the Elwick racecourse, then crosses over the Bowen Bridge. It is a critical part of Hobart's bulk water infrastructure.

Southern Water's CEO, Mr Mike Paine, said the existing water pipeline, constructed in 1962, was under pressure.



The pipeline beneath the Bowen Bridge.

"We will be duplicating a 3.2 km section of this bulk pipeline, between Berriedale and the Elwick Pump Station, near the Derwent Entertainment

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Cradle Mountain Water CEO'S Report

with Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Kneebone

AFTER 18 MONTHS of operation, Cradle Mountain Water is now firmly focused on the future and kicking some major goals in the months ahead.

One of our more significant achievements was the recent opening of the Queenstown Water Treatment Plant. Cradle Mountain Water inherited this project from the West Coast Council and, despite some delays with the project, we are now confident of being able to supply Queenstown residents with clean drinking water in the future.

Another win has been the much anticipated launch of our new Customer Information System — Gentrack. This new system will ultimately see us take control of the billing process. From 1 July 2011, all three corporations will have complete access to customer information and will be able to issue accounts. The implementation of this new system will go a long way to alleviating previous billing issues.

Work is also well underway on developing our pricing models which will be incorporated into our Price and Services Plan for submission to the Economic Regulator by June 2011. This plan forms an integral part of our business operations as it sets out the framework for all water and sewerage charges for the future. Cradle Mountain Water will hold various community consultation sessions to capture feedback and opinion from those who will be most impacted by these tariffs — our customers.

The water metering project is gaining further momentum with the statewide roll-out now underway. As part of this project, approximately 7,000 new meters will be installed in previously unmetered properties in North West Tasmania. Another 8,000 meters will be installed to replace existing aged, malfunctioning or redundant meters.

Left: The flooded Forth River.

Right: A water main break at Palooona swept this water main from its moorings on the Don River.



Major pipeline duplication to ensure Hobart water supply

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Centre. This will address the risks inherent in an ageing pipeline, including corrosion and increasing failures.

"This is the only section of this important bulk supply line that doesn't have a 'backup' pipeline, in case of breaks or pipe failure. The West Derwent Pipeline duplication will

help protect supply into the future, increasing the reliability of the water supply to Hobart, Kingborough, the eastern shore and Sorell."

The duplication (including design, supply, install and project management) will cost around



North West Coast floods test systems

IT WAS A CASE of 'all hands on deck' for Cradle Mountain Water crews when floods hit the North West Coast in January.

In what has been described by some as a 'mini Brisbane', Cradle Mountain Water employees endured hazardous conditions to respond to call outs to residents impacted by the floods.

"Our crews worked day and night in an effort to restore water supplies to residents along the coast and repair wastewater infrastructure," CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

"We had 36 wastewater pump stations affected by the floods, and suffered two significant water main breaks," he said.

The effects of the flood were also felt closer to home. "The rising Forth River led to the treatment plant being shut down and, with parts of Pumping Station Road completely submerged, offices at the site had to be evacuated.

"As a result of the plant's shutdown, residents from Latrobe through to Ulverstone were asked to conserve water over the weekend.

The floods did have one positive outcome for the corporation. "The flood event enabled us to test our emergency response procedures. We learnt a lot from the experience, and this knowledge will enable us to fine tune our emergency management plan to better prepare us in the future," Mr Kneebone said.

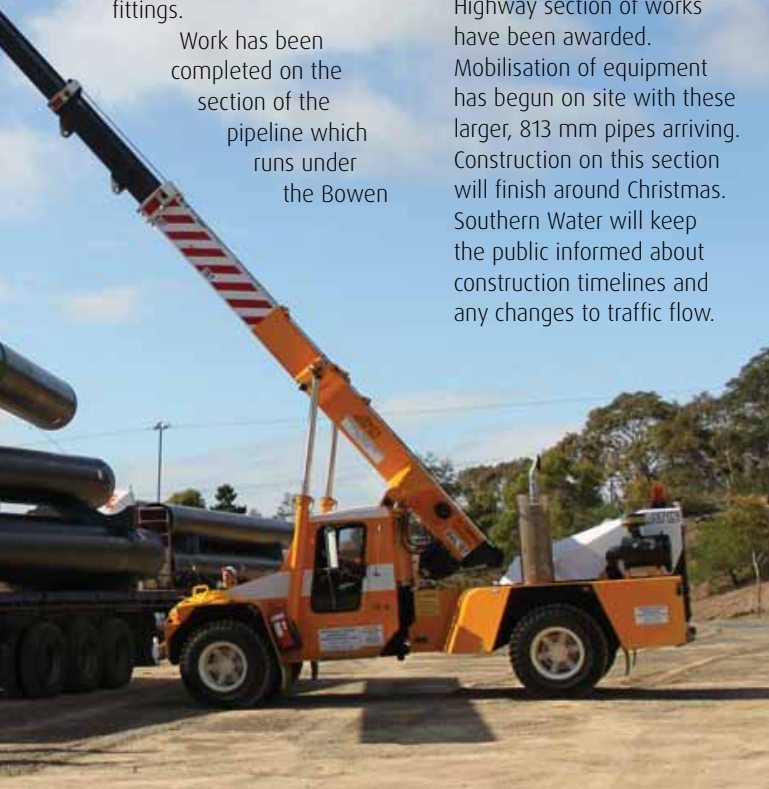


\$7.8 million, including \$2.1 million worth of pipeline. The project will also include the construction of a new valve pit and isolation valve along with other associated valves and fittings.

Work has been completed on the section of the pipeline which runs under the Bowen

Bridge. Large sections of 648 mm pipe were lifted and attached to rails underneath the bridge. Traffic was not affected.

Tenders for the Brooker Highway section of works have been awarded. Mobilisation of equipment has begun on site with these larger, 813 mm pipes arriving. Construction on this section will finish around Christmas. Southern Water will keep the public informed about construction timelines and any changes to traffic flow.



New dam to improve summer supply for Bicheno

SOUTHERN WATER'S new Bicheno dam is now operational.

Mike Paine, CEO of Southern Water, said that the 220 megalitre dam would help reduce the need for water restrictions during peak summer periods.

"The new Bicheno dam will provide extra water storage for Bicheno residents, greatly improving the existing reservoir storage capacity of two

megalitres. The dam is currently at full supply level, filled with water pumped from the Apsley River over the last three months."

The dam will supply around 700 homes and business in Bicheno and provide security of supply during the busy summer tourist period.

The new dam is situated on Gordon Street near Bicheno's water plant.



Southern Water Chairman, Miles Hampton and Glamorgan Spring Bay Mayor, Bertrand Cadart opening the new Bicheno dam.

Queenstown water treatment plant opens



PARTS OF QUEENSTOWN finally have access to clean, treated drinking water following the recent opening of the \$2.5 million Queenstown Water Treatment Plant.

The new plant is part of a major \$5 million project to upgrade Queenstown's water infrastructure a project commenced by West Coast Council before Cradle Mountain Water took it over in July 2009.

"When we began managing the treatment plant project back in July 2009, the decision was taken to rework certain elements of the project to arrive at the best solution," CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

"The subsequent redesign, reinstallation of equipment and rebuilding added months to the completion date; however, we are now confident that the plant is going to meet our strict water quality requirements," Mr Kneebone said.

Cradle Mountain Water crews and subcontractors have spent over 2,500 man hours on the site since June last year. Parts of the town began receiving the new water supply in early April and the remainder of the town will be supplied over coming months.

"We believe this is an exciting time for the residents of Queenstown and long overdue as they have regularly had to endure dirty water. We are also closely monitoring the ageing pipework during the changeover process to guard against the possibility of pipe breaks."

"Extensive hydraulic modeling of the system has been undertaken and pressure regulating devices have been installed to minimise the impact of higher pressure. Progressive renewal of the reticulation pipes is being undertaken to improve reliability over the medium term," Mr Kneebone said.

North Caroline Street pump station completion closer

A \$2.9 MILLION upgrade of the North Caroline Street Pump Station at East Devonport is nearing completion.

Initiated by Devonport City Council in 2008, the upgrade will provide greater security of waste water disposal pumping to the Pardoe Treatment Plant.

The pump station represents the last link in the chain to transfer sewerage to the treatment plant at Pardoe, which builds on the new Horsehead Creek Sewerage detention facility.

"The upgrade of the pump station will greatly reduce the risks associated with the potential failure of the plant and the impact this could have on the coastal marine environment and local residents," CEO Andrew Kneebone said.

"An emergency generator will come online in the event of a power failure at the site, providing surety of effluent disposal," he said.

"A by-pass pump station has been constructed with sufficient capacity to forward sewage to the treatment plant and the existing pump station will be refurbished once the by-pass station is commissioned," he said.

"The upgrade also addresses odour problems which have been occurring due to high system loads. The new odour treatment facility accepts gases from both the new and existing pump stations and removes odours before releasing them into the atmosphere, reducing the odour issue for the local residents.

WATER METERS

WHY THEY COUNT

Water Metering Project



Printed on 100% recycled Australian-made stock

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Water Metering Project kicks off

CONTRACTS HAVE been signed, water meters delivered and installation work has begun in southern Tasmania for the massive roll-out of around 60,000 residential water meters.

In the north and north-west, where more than 90% of properties are metered, plans are underway at Ben Lomond Water and Cradle Mountain Water to meter the final areas and begin replacing ageing meters.

Following a tender process, Elster water meters with Waveflow automated meter reading (AMR) technology have been selected for statewide use.

The technology allows meters to be read from the street using a drive or walk-by methodology — a process which means meter readers do not have to enter properties apart from an annual maintenance check.

After significant levels of interest from companies across Australia, Southern Water selected Skilltech Consulting Pty Ltd, a UXC company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, to act as head contractor to install the meters.

Skilltech's 70-strong workforce for this project — comprising mostly plumbers and trades assistants — has been almost exclusively sourced in Tasmania.

Installation began on Hobart's eastern shore in April, with residential water meters set to be installed across the southern region by the end of June 2012. A major community relations campaign is under way to communicate the project's impacts and benefits.

Work has begun on scoping the needs of commercial and industrial customers, with installation expected to begin later in the year.

Technology boosts intelligence gathering in the field

RIA MOBILE, a Hobart based GIS firm, has developed software which will give Southern Water the opportunity to gather, store and transfer vital field information during the roll-out of its Water Metering Project.

A Field Intelligence Display program has been developed and is being used by contractors and Southern Water personnel to access, verify and update information regarding each stop tap connection and water meter installation.

With around 60,000 meters scheduled for installation across Southern Tasmania over the coming 16 months, hand held devices with the software

will be used in the field to identify property sequences for installation, stop tap locations and any special requirements within each property. Each water meter is barcoded and tracked from warehouse to installation, and this too is captured. Field personnel will also record vital information such as pipe material and condition on each property.

All information captured in the field is transferred to Southern Water's databases. Once the project is concluded, Southern Water will hold the first complete picture of the condition of its infrastructure around stop taps.

Feedback and suggestions are welcome. If you would prefer to receive *Waterworks* electronically, contact editor@mywatertas.com.au