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Media Release

Avoca Do Not Consume Notice lifted

The residents of Avoca in the Fingal Valley can now enjoy safe, fully treated drinking water after the official removal of the Do Not Consume notice.

Avoca was placed on the health notice following detection of heavy metals in the town's water supply in November 2012.

To overcome this problem, TasWater constructed a 29km \$3.3 million pipeline from the Fingal water treatment plant to the existing Avoca reservoir. This strategy not only ensures safe water, but has allowed the project to come in \$1.4 million under the original budget of \$4.7 million.

Mayor of the Northern Midland and TasWater's Chief Owners' Representative David Downie is delighted Avoca residents now have access to safe and reliable drinking water.

"After extensive testing by TasWater and the Department of Health and Human Services, the water delivered to Avoca residents now meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and is safe to drink straight from the tap.

"The lifting of the Avoca Do Not Consume notice is an important step towards achieving the commitment to addressing water quality issues in 24 towns across Tasmania by August 2018 and is part of TasWater's 24Glasses campaign."

Construction of the pipeline began in September 2016 and was carried out by Tasmanian company, Water Industry Solutions. It was directionally drilled through the soil to protect sensitive local flora and fauna identified along the route which is mainly contained within the Esk Highway road reserve and at times involved excavating through difficult and rocky terrain.

The existing reservoir in Avoca will provide enough storage to meet peak demand while the pipeline from Fingal is designed in a way that minimises the risk of damage or interruption of the water supply.

It underwent a cleaning and maintenance program early this year and with the successful design and construction of the pipeline as well as the cleaning of the reservoir, re-chlorination at Avoca is not required.

"The Fingal-Avoca pipeline project is just one part of TasWater's affordable ten-year, fully funded plan to upgrade Tasmania's water and sewerage infrastructure," said Councillor Downie.

"It is a great result for Avoca which will be joined by other small towns across Tasmania as TasWater upgrades drinking water supplies over the next twelve months."

For more information on TasWater's progress in removing permanent public health alerts from 24 regional towns across Tasmania, visit 24glasses.com.au