



Date: 9 August 2018

Attn: News Editors, Producers

For publication immediately

Media Release

Rossarden turns on to a new fully treated water supply

Cause for celebration in the town of Rossarden with TasWater and the Department of Health removing the town's long standing public health alert on the use of water.

Sourced from Aberfoyle Creek, the town's water supply has traditionally been untreated with its 107 customers initially being required to boil their water before using. This health precaution however was upgraded to a Do Not Consume notice in 2014 after persistent lead detections in the water supply.

Now it's all a thing of the past.

TasWater has installed a new water treatment plant and reservoir just north of Rossarden which now supplies fully treated water to the community. The treatment plant is one of seven facilities fully fabricated in a factory in Launceston by the company Trility and its partner Hydromet. The containerised treatment plant was then transported on site to Rossarden by truck where it was installed and connected to a new 250 kilolitre reservoir.

TasWater CEO Michael Brewer says it's great news that TasWater can announce a clean and reliable water supply for another small Tasmanian community, all part of our 24 Glasses campaign.

"It has taken a lot of work by a lot of people both in TasWater and from our contractors to get to this stage of upgrading water supplies across the state."

"We are now looking forward to achieving our aim of removing all public health alerts by the end of this month."

Northern Midlands Councillor Mary Knowles who lives in the Rossarden area agrees.

"This is an extremely important investment in this little town. The residents without exception have said to me now they are so pleased to be able to drink the water and we can have clean washing."

As part of the water supply upgrade, the entire reticulation network of Rossarden has been overhauled with old galvanised pipes from the 1930's replaced by new water mains. This ensures the quality of the water is maintained from when it leaves the treatment plant to arriving at a customer's home.

“Potentially clean water can mean tourism investment, businesses can be here, they can have confidence to run a business.”

Councillor Knowles says the community has welcomed the input it has been able to have in working with TasWater during the water upgrade process and is confident issues like ensuring a secure water supply for firefighting and hydrant locations within the town are being addressed.

Mike Brewster says it’s very satisfying that the work we are doing is appreciated.

“A sustainable and clean water supply is not only an important part of Tasmania’s community and public health infrastructure but can also foster economic development,” Mr Brewster says

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