

MT BEAUTY | RIVER OFFTAKE PROJECT

Securing Mt Beauty's water supply.

Planning continues for new water infrastructure to be built on the east bank of the Kiewa River, downstream of the Pondage spillway on Embankment Drive.

This new 'offtake' will allow water from the Kiewa River to be pumped to the Mt Beauty treatment plant in Tawonga South before it is returned back into the community as drinking water.

Latest update.

Since our last community newsletter in September 2019, we've been progressing the project despite the challenges of 2020.

- We have completed a geographical survey of the site and verified the area is suitable for the new infrastructure.
- Our engineers have been working on the design of the offtake including pipework and a pump station. They have determined that a weir will be needed to allow enough water to pool near the offtake during low flows. The weir wall will also include the construction of a fish ladder.
- We have been working with the relevant authorities to gain the necessary construction approvals.



COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS

We are holding two drop-in sessions to answer any questions you may have about the project. We also want to get your ideas on how we can make the new infrastructure blend in to the local environment.

Join us at the Mt Beauty Community Centre (Kiewa Cres) between 10am and 3pm on 30 August 2021, or between 5pm and 8pm on 31 August 2021 (dependent on COVID-19 restrictions).

Or you can contact project manager Dean Jones on **1300 361 622** or **info@newater.com.au**.

Project catch-up.

The new offtake will lead to major benefits to the water supply of Mt Beauty and surrounding communities.

Secure and reliable

The new offtake will be closer to the water treatment plant and will replace infrastructure built in the 1970's. It will allow for increased capacity in line with projected population growth. It will also remove the supply challenges currently presented by AGL's hydro operations.

Safety, bushfire and rockslide resilience

The dangers of repairing and maintaining our current offtake pipeline will be eliminated. The new offtake will also reduce impacts from bushfires and rockslides. You may remember the recent incident on West Kiewa Fire Track where part of the raw water pipeline to the water treatment plant failed. This incident led to a dangerous and costly repair.

Better water quality

Currently, we occasionally experience poor raw water quality from our existing offtake points. The raw water is always treated to meet our high standards, but the new offtake will lead to a consistent quality of raw water being pumped to the treatment plant.

Why this location?

The site is the best location for uninterrupted water extraction as it is downstream of AGL operations and has guaranteed river flows. The site also has a low risk of being affected by flooding, good access to the existing raw water main, low environmental impact during construction and is the best option for the safety of our staff.

Next steps:

- Community information drop-in sessions held.
- Tender advertised. Contract awarded.
- Design finalised. Construction to begin.