



Media Release

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Darfield Water Supply Upgrade Completed

A major upgrade to the Darfield water supply has recently been completed. The upgrade will provide high quality drinking water and extra capacity to service the growing town.

The upgrade included the development of two deep ground water bores, a 1000m³ concrete reservoir and a booster pumping station.

"The bores sources water from deep underground, meaning that the water is naturally filtered providing a secure and safe supply of water," explains Murray England, the Council's Asset Manager – Water Services.

The two bores were necessary to provide sufficient water to meet peak summer demand now and in the future as the town grows. The second bore was also necessary in case a pump failure occurs so that Darfield can continue to be supplied with deep ground water.

The reservoir provides the town with increased water storage capacity and is also used to reduce a problem with entrained (trapped) air that was affecting some resident's internal plumbing.

"The entrained air was becoming trapped within some household's hot water cylinders and internal plumbing this meant that the system was prone to 'spluttering,' especially when taps were first turned on," says Mr England.

"Now that the upgrade has been completed, water is stored in the reservoir where the air is released before it is pumped into the reticulation."

Historically, Darfield was supplied from shallow wells next to the Waimakariri River. This water was chlorinated and subject to strict water restrictions during times of low river flow. This system would have required major upgrades if it had continued to be used.

Testing of the town's new bore sources has proven the groundwater quality to be suitable for supply without treatment and the water quality complies with national Drinking Water Standards.

"The newly upgraded water supply provides Darfield with two secure, modern and safe drinking water sources which have the capacity to service Darfield into the future as the population grows," says Mr England.

Ends

Photos attached:

Selwyn District Council's Team Leader Water Services Andy Olivier in front of the new Darfield Reservoir.

The new Darfield pump station (front) and reservoir (back).

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