



Our Water Our Future

Recycling water at Mt Hotham

The Mt Hotham Wastewater Reuse and Water Conservation Project will contribute to the sustainable future of the Mt Hotham Resort and local rivers and creeks.

It will become an icon project of national significance that will increase environmental flows to regional waterways, reinforcing the future viability of the regional economy and underpin community prosperity in the region.

The scheme will take treated waste water from the Mt Hotham resort that is currently discharged into the adjoining Dargo catchment and provide additional treatment to Class A standard and then re-use it for snow making on the mountain.

Class A recycled water is the highest standard of recycled water. Now used for irrigating food crops and recreational spaces such as parks and golf courses, Class A recycled water must meet strict EPA Victoria and Department of Human Services guidelines that ensure consistent quality.

The recycled water will also be used for other water saving initiatives at the resort, such as toilet flushing via a third pipe system.

The Project is highly innovative and based on membrane filtration technology that has been tailored to this application through a research and development program, including pilot plant trials at Mt Hotham and Mt Buller.

The key components of the Project are:

Class A Treatment - The wastewater collection system will transfer wastewater to the treatment plant where primary screening and secondary biological treatment will be undertaken. The important new stage will involve an upgrade of the plant to perform advanced tertiary treatment through integrated membrane and biological treatment processes. The membrane technology provides an effective barrier by removing pathogens with a cell size greater than 0.01 microns diameter. This process has been demonstrated through pilot plant trials at Mt Hotham to reliably produce Class A water.

Pumping - The Class A water is then collected in a holding tank and pumped via a 3.5 kilometre long rising main to the storage reservoir at Mt Loch car park.

Reservoir - The storage reservoir will have a capacity of 30 million litres and has been designed to fit within a previously disturbed footprint at Mt Loch car park site. The construction involves bulk excavation and placement of suitably graded material that will be compacted to form the walls of the reservoir. A synthetic liner will be installed.

Reuse - The two key reuse options that provide significant benefits for the environment and Mt Hotham are:

Snowmaking - typically, Mt Hotham uses between 70 and 120 million litres of water for snow making between June - August each year. It is expected that an annual minimum of 60 million litres of Class A treated water will be available for snow making.

Third Pipe Reticulation - Installation of a pipe for distributing class A water within the village will be undertaken as part of the Project. All new developments and major refurbishment at Mt Hotham will connect to this system. Up to 30 per cent of existing lodges will be connected to the third pipe reticulation within 10 years. The third pipe system will primarily be used for toilet flushing.

