

Thursday October 24, 2013

### Water storage boost for Orbost and District

**Member for Gippsland East, Tim Bull, today opened a significant water storage project benefiting Orbost and the surrounding communities of Jarrahmond, Newmerella and Marlo.**

East Gippsland Water's 45 million litre drinking water storage at Orbost is now protected by a shade cloth cover designed to safeguard water quality and cut evaporation from the storage by up to 90 percent.

The Victorian Government contributed \$272,500 towards the \$640,000 initiative from its Small Towns Water Quality Fund.

Mr Bull officially opened the cover on behalf of the Water Minister Peter Walsh and said the project would help ensure that the local communities had secure, high quality drinking water supplies well into the future.

"The covered storage at Orbost is an excellent example of a cost-effective safeguard against extreme weather events and greatly reduces any risk of soil, algal or airborne contamination of water held in the storage."

The covered storage holds treated drinking water before it is supplied to the surrounding towns.

East Gippsland Water's Chairperson, Joe Rettino, said today marks the completion of a major, multi-million-dollar infrastructure program that has been implemented across the region over the past five years.

"As well as installing a number of storage covers we have also constructed additional water storages and water treatment plants," Mr Rettino said.

"We welcome Mr Bull's visit to see first-hand how value for money projects are ensuring that our regional communities have long-term water security and high quality supplies."

The use of shade cloth follows pioneering research involving East Gippsland Water and the CSIRO, which demonstrated the effectiveness of the material.

Similar covers are also installed over water storages at Mallacoota, Omeo, Cann River, Swifts Creek, Bemm River and Lindenow.