

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Tokens only at standpipes!

A number of East Gippsland Water standpipes have broken down and had to be removed from service temporarily for expensive repairs in recent months as a result of vandalism.

The standpipes require specific tokens, purchased from East Gippsland Water, to operate. Unfortunately, there have been an increasing number of instances where a small minority of members of the public have attempted to use coins instead, and even a drilled token with string attached, to purchase standpipe water. This has blocked and broken standpipe mechanisms, rendering the standpipes out of action until a repair can be carried out.

East Gippsland Water's Executive Manager Customers, Community and Communications, David Radford, said, "The irresponsible action of a small minority has been putting standpipes out of action, inconveniencing those who really need water and have to travel extended distances to find an alternative standpipe that works. It is also hitting our customers, who are ultimately covering the costs of repairs.

"This action is also regarded as an act of water theft, a serious offence under the Water Act and we ask our communities to report any suspicious activity around our standpipes to Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

"We strongly urge anyone wanting to use a standpipe to do the right thing and purchase standpipe tokens from our Bairnsdale office at 133 Macleod Street, during office hours. Tokens cost \$4.48 each and one token provides 1,000 litres of water."

East Gippsland Water standpipes can be found at the following locations:

- 107 Rupert Street, Bairnsdale
- 102 Golf Links Road, Lakes Entrance
- Princes Highway, Johnsonville
- Rosherville Road, Metung
- Livingstone Street, Orbost
- Orbost Road, Buchan.

To report a standpipe that is out of order please call East Gippsland Water's phone number for emergencies and faults, 1300 134 202.

Ends

**Photo:**



Caption: East Gippsland Water tokens shown top half of the photo, along with a drilled token middle left and four 20 cent coins bottom right