

BOIL WATER ALERT LIFTED

MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009

Ben Lomond Water Chief Executive Officer Barry Cash said today that the boil water alert for parts of Launceston had been lifted.

Residents in some areas of West Launceston and surrounds had been advised on Friday to boil water prior to use following the detection of low levels of E coli in water from the Hill Street Reservoir.

"Ben Lomond Water was advised this afternoon that the Director of Public Health had approved the lifting of the boil water notice," Mr Cash said.

"The Director also thanked Ben Lomond Water for its prompt and comprehensive response to the incident.

"The problem was discovered through routine tests on Friday. The level discovered was the lowest possible level.

"Investigations over the weekend revealed that the problem related to low residual chlorine levels at the Hill Street Reservoir which draws its water from the Distillery Creek Treatment Plant. When water is treated chlorine is added to destroy all bacteria and viruses however the aim is to retain some chlorine in the water to guard against recontamination.

"It's not clear how the contamination occurred but it is likely to have been dust or a small bird getting under the reservoir roof.

"Ben Lomond Water is investigating measures and taking steps to mitigate this problem in the future.

"In the meantime we have manually dosed the reservoir with chlorine in order to ensure that the water being delivered to customers is safe.

"The area will be closely monitored to ensure the problem does not recur.

"I would like to thank the public for their cooperation and understanding over the weekend. Every effort is taken to ensure the quality and safety of drinking water," Mr Cash said.

ENDS

For further information – Sophie Murphy – 0409 181 796