



30 November 2009

MEDIA RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION WORK TO START ON MOUNT GAMBIER FLUORIDATION PLANT

Construction work on Mount Gambier's fluoridation plant starts today at the Blue Lake Pumping Station site.

SA Water Chief Operating Officer John Ringham says works are scheduled to take about five months to complete.

"From today, contractors will start preparing the construction site, with the majority of major works to start in late December," Mr Ringham says.

"We anticipate residents will start receiving a fluoridated water supply by mid-2010."

The new plant will mix controlled amounts of fluoride with water pumped from the Blue Lake to all of our customers in Mount Gambier.

SA Health Principal Water Quality Advisor Doctor David Cunliffe says Mount Gambier is the only major centre in South Australia without a fluoridated drinking water supply, and this project would improve dental health in the local community.

"Around 90 per cent of South Australians already use fluoridated water. It's the most effective way to allow everyone access to fluoride to help protect their teeth," Dr Cunliffe says.

The community will be notified of the project's completion, prior to the delivery of fluoridated water, via post.