

Media Release



January 20, 2011

Reservoir vandals' fine prompts warning

Two men have been fined after cutting a fence in an attempt to enter Mt Macedon's Orde Hill Reservoir.

The pair was caught in the act by Western Water staff last week, and police issued both men on-the-spot fines of \$280.

Gisborne Police Sergeant Len Van Andel said entering a protected reservoir was illegal and could be extremely dangerous.

"Not only are people putting their own safety at risk, no-one wants somebody swimming in their drinking water," Sergeant Van Andel says.

"We will come down hard on anyone who is caught in this irresponsible act."

Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson, says the offenders received on-the-spot fines as they were caught at the fence and had not managed to reach the water.

"We take the safety of our drinking water supplies extremely seriously, and would not hesitate to prosecute offenders in court for a more serious breach."

Mr Wilkinson says Western Water has stepped up surveillance at all its reservoirs over the summer period, and will call police immediately if any break-ins are detected.

He says catchments are restricted for a reason, and anyone entering a closed catchment area, despite warning signs, was hurting the whole community.

"Water is a resource that everyone shares, and we need to maintain the high quality of our water. The financial cost of damage to fences and equipment is also a concern."

People who witness others breaking into reservoir areas or any water infrastructure assets in the region are urged to record number plates of any vehicles involved and report the incident immediately to Western Water on 1300 650 422.

Ends

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Sergeant Len Van Andel and Western Water staff will be at Orde Hill Reservoir, Sangsters Rd, Mt Macedon, on Monday January 24 at 10am.

About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

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