

## Our water sources

# Grampians Water Supply System



**The Grampians system supplies the towns of Balmoral, Cavendish, Hamilton, Dunkeld and Tarrington.**

## History

The Grampians Water Supply System is our oldest - dating back to 1900.

In the 1850s and decades to follow, the lack of a secure water supply was one of the most serious problems facing Hamilton. Inadequate supplies over the summer months often caused outbreaks of diseases such as scarlet fever, typhus, typhoid and diphtheria.

In 1880, a dam opened on the town common, reticulating water throughout Hamilton. Heavy restrictions were required during a dry summer in 1891- 92 and during a severe drought in 1897-88 when the reservoir was so low that water was only available for two hours each morning.

In February 1898, the local council decided to source water from the Grampians. Water in Four Mile Creek (Headworks Creek) was channeled off into a 34-kilometre-long pipe where it flowed by gravity to a service basin at the northern end of the common. In June 1900, it was reported that "beautiful, clear water" had started flowing from the Grampians through the pipes and taps of Hamilton.

Another intake was added at the creek in 1904 due to increasing demand from customers. However, the accumulation of silt in the pipes reduced flows and became a constant problem. The solution was to build a second service reservoir eight years later.

Despite this, shortfalls continued and a larger pipeline and service basin were constructed in the 1920s.

Demand continued to increase and in 1939, Browns Creek was added as another source of water followed by Gap Creek in 1942.

Hartwicks Reservoir was constructed north of Hamilton in 1947 and further streams were added to the catchment in 1959-60.

The large Cruckoor Reservoir was constructed in 1969 and Hayes Reservoir in 1993.

In 2006, Hamilton's water supply was once again impacted by drought and several relief bores were commissioned to augment the system.

Most recently, in 2010, a 52-kilometre-long pipeline was constructed, running from Rocklands Reservoir (managed by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water) to the Grampians' pipeline. This provides a back-up source for the Grampians system in case of future shortages.



## Balmoral supply

The supply is sourced from Rocklands Reservoir and is treated using a filtration and disinfection process at a local treatment plant.

## Cavendish supply

Cavendish's water is sourced from streams or bores in the Grampians. It's treated using UV and is disinfected before being delivered to around 100 customers.

## Hamilton, Dunkeld and Tarrington supply

Water for 6,100 customers in these three towns is sourced from streams in the Grampians. During dry periods, additional water can also be sourced from Rocklands Reservoir or from shallow groundwater bores in the Grampians.

The water is piped to Hayes, Cruckoor and Hartwicks reservoirs where it's stored, allowing the different raw water qualities to blend together and sediment to settle before the water is sent to the Hamilton Water Treatment Plant.

Once treated via chemical coagulation, filtration and disinfection, the water is supplied to more than 5,500 customers throughout Hamilton.

It's also pumped eight kilometres to supply around 165 customers in Tarrington.

The Hamilton supply is also pumped 35 kilometres to Dunkeld where it is stored in a covered basin before again being disinfected and supplied to 400 customers.

