

Better Water and More of It with Hexa-Cover®



Jaymie Dawes at Omeo WTP Raw Water Storage Reservoir

The Omeo WTP raw water storage reservoir draws water from Butchers Creek which has had issues with algae growth in the past. Algae would be carried from the river into the lined reservoir above the plant. The algae make the water more difficult to treat to potable water standards.

Unwanted nutrients from ducks and wildlife accessing the reservoir also compounded the algae problem. As a result, the reservoir required regular emptying and cleaning, to mitigate the effects of algae on water quality and treatment.

Aiming to reduce reservoir maintenance and the intensity of treatment required, a thorough assessment of available reservoir covers was performed. Critical factors included capital cost, maintenance cost, and effectiveness in reducing UV penetration (thereby limiting growth of algae). In this case significant evaporation reduction was seen as an added benefit rather than a critical factor. Hexa-Cover® R114 tiles were determined as the preferred technology and were used to cover the raw water reservoir at Omeo WTP. Installation was achieved by pouring shipping containers of the tiles into the reservoir.

East Gippsland Water's Coordinator Environmental Services, Jaymie Dawes says the results of installing Hexa-Covers at Omeo have been positive.

"We installed 108,000 Hexa-Cover discs in June 2017, and since have seen a notable reduction in algae growth and E.coli in our raw water storage, which makes the water much easier to treat. We are now well into the third summer since installation and the reservoir has not needed to be emptied or cleaned."

The hexagonal tiles float freely on the water surface and arrange themselves in a grid that self-compensates for different reservoir shapes and varying water levels. The small size of the tile is an effective deterrent to waterfowl. Up to 99% coverage of the surface area can be achieved, resulting in reduced evaporation, reduced contamination (from multiple sources) and improved water quality. Even in situations where there are exposed surface areas as the tiles blow in the wind, water quality improvements appear unaffected.

For further information please contact Paulus des Anges (Earth, Water and Infrastructure) on 0484 220 956 or email paulus@e-wi.com.au.

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