



Media Release

22 January 2020

TENTERFIELD SHIRE WATER UPDATE TUESDAY, 22 JANUARY 2020

Following rainfall of approximately 70 mm during the past week, the Tenterfield Dam level is now at 52% and although this should trigger a move to lift the current 4.7 Water Restrictions in Tenterfield, due to ongoing water quality issues caused by ash runoff, and concern that the drought conditions may continue into the summer, current restrictions will remain in place for the time being.

Residents are reminded that the Boil Water Alert has been lifted since 23 December 2019.

Council has hired an *Osmoflow* Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant which has been delivered to the Water Treatment Plant at the Dam. The unit will be commissioned next week and replaces the smaller desalination unit provided by Rural Aid in August 2019 which has now been moved to Brewarina.

The new plant will treat all water sourced from the bores and strips out all contaminants. The plant is similar to those used by the Defence Forces and mining companies to ensure good quality water from sources which are less than satisfactory.

Water exploration and drilling works are now finalized and a total of eight (8) production bores will be connected to the supply system (including Shirley Park bore). The yield of these combined bores is estimated at 14 litres per second which exceeds the town requirements of 13 litres per second. Water rising mains are currently being constructed and electrical installation works have commenced.

Until the commissioning of the new RO plant, the bore at the Transport Museum has been turned off.

Once the total project estimate is finalized, Council will submit to Department Primary Industries Environment (DPIE) for approval of the scope of works and cost estimates. The approved Government allocation for this project is up to \$4,373,000 with a Council contribution of \$124,333.

Due to the continuing dry conditions in the north of our Shire, Urbenville and Mulli Mulli are now at Level 4 Water Restrictions and Jennings remains on the Emergency Water Restrictions (80 litres per person per day) imposed by Southern Downs Regional Council.

Council has been receiving a number of complaints regarding the ash runoff into Tenterfield Creek and advises that Council are responsible for Council owned structures (bridges and causeways) and only have authority to clear debris within 10 metres of the structure in accordance with its annual maintenance Department Primary Industries (DPI) Fisheries Management Act Permit.

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NSW Office of Water (DPI) are responsible for the management of the State's surface water and groundwater resources and are aware of the impacts of ash and fire debris into Tenterfield Creek. OzFish is working with NSW Fisheries to ensure the survival of fish stocks.

Council commends and thanks the community of Tenterfield for their diligence in maintaining the 4.7 Water Restriction goals and is hopeful that the current damp conditions may herald the breaking of the crippling drought.

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