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MEDIA RELEASE

Emergency Community Water Access Point and Boil Water Alert Issued

Coonamble Shire Council has established temporary community water access points, following issuing a Boil Water Alert for all properties connected to the Coonamble town water supply, following a system failure at the water treatment plant.

With the town's water reservoir at dangerously low levels and demand exceeding treatment capacity, Council has been forced to introduce strict water restrictions and emergency response measures to protect public health and maintain essential supply.

The water treatment plant is currently not able to keep up with demand, which has compromised water quality and means the supply is not meeting Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. As a result, drinking water may contain E. coli or total coliforms and is not safe for consumption unless boiled.

Council is responding by pumping water directly into the reticulation system to maintain household supply, while utilising bore water to stabilise the town's water supply.

BOIL WATER ALERT – IMPORTANT

All water used for drinking or food preparation must be brought to a rolling boil and allowed to cool before use.

Residents must use boiled or bottled water for:

- Drinking
- Brushing teeth
- Washing and preparing food or beverages
- Preparing baby formula
- Making ice
- Pet drinking water

Tap water may still be used for:

- Showering and bathing (avoid swallowing water; sponge-bathe babies and toddlers)
- Washing dishes in hot, soapy water or dishwasher (air-dry after washing)
- Washing clothes

Community Water Access Arrangements

To reduce pressure on the town system and support households, Council has established the following temporary access points.

Garden Water – Showgrounds Tank Supply

From Sunday, 1 February, between 7:00am and 12:00pm, residents may access non-potable water for garden use only from the Showgrounds tank supply.

- Location: Showgrounds- entry nearest the hospital
- Council staff on site to assist filling containers
- Maximum: 1,000 litres per household per visit each day
- Operating for two weeks daily, subject to weather

This water does not come from the town drinking water system and helps reduce demand on the reservoir.

Free Bottled Drinking Water

From Monday, 2 February, residents can collect free bottled drinking water packs.

- Location: Car park behind the old Sons of the Soil Hotel
- Times: 8:00am to 12:00pm
- Available: Daily until Friday, 6 February

Greg Hill
GENERAL MANAGER