



Media Release

10 February 2020

TENTERFIELD DAM AT 60% CAPACITY

Following this recent glorious rain, the level of the Tenterfield Dam this morning measured 60%. The black swans and pelicans are back along with an increase in ducks and water hens which is a great indication that the ash levels have dropped and the purity of the Dam water is returning to normal.

Council, at the February 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting at Legume, will consider a recommendation that the current 4.7 Water Restriction for Tenterfield be eased and ultimately, Council will consider a complete re-write of the Drought Management Plan to ensure that the experience gained in the past 2 years is reflected in the introduction of future water restrictions.

In the meantime, Council is working with Water NSW to establish a dam on the Mole River through the Federal Government's NewGrid funding. Discussions to commence works for the feasibility study for this new dam will take place early March 2020.

"With the commissioning of a new water treatment plant in 2022, the community should be assured that even if rainfall levels decrease in the future, Tenterfield will have a secure, potable, water supply," said Mayor Peter Petty.

"Our community should also be proud of the work that our Council has achieved by being at the forefront of emergency water works and now issues with silt and ash runoff that many Councils throughout NSW and Victoria are having to deal with. Our Council has done the work and our experiences are being used as a benchmark for many of these Councils as they come to grips with fire damage to huge areas of water catchment."

"In closing however, I am mindful that not all areas of our Shire have received these good rains with many dams and creeks still dry and it will take much more rainfall to break this drought and give our rural residents the confidence to restock and turn their lives, and the life of this community, around", Mayor Petty concluded.

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Tenterfield Dam at 60% capacity – Looking north towards the wall