



Media Release

9 October 2019

CONTINUED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE – BOIL WATER ALERT

The **BOIL WATER ALERT** issued on Friday, 4 October 2019 is to remain in place until further notice.

The current poor raw water quality is being caused by run-off of ash deposits during the recent rain event and is being compounded by the continuation of grass fires to the west of Tenterfield yesterday, combined with the strong westerly winds depositing dust and ash over the surface of the Tenterfield Dam. Any further rainfall and wind will continue to affect the water quality.

Daily measuring of the turbidity of the water shows a change on a daily basis and it is considered a safer measure to continue the **BOIL WATER ALERT** until such time as conditions return to some level of normality.

Unfortunately, Council's filtration plant cannot filter out all the miniscule particles of ash and they clump together in the water with the risk of bacteria becoming lodged between the particles and the chlorine unable to access and destroy them.

As previously advised, water used for drinking or food preparation should be brought to a rolling boil to make it safe. Kettles with automatic shut off switches can do this. Water should then be allowed to cool and stored in a clean container with a lid and refrigerated.

Bottled water or cool boiled water should be used for drinking, washing uncooked food (e.g. salad vegetables and fruit), making ice, cleaning teeth, gargling and pet's drinking water.

Dishes should be washed in hot soapy water or in a dishwasher. Children should take bottled water or cool boiled water to school.

Council's approved water carriers have been advised. If you have received a delivery of water from Council's supply since Friday, 4 October 2019, unfortunately you will also need to consider the **BOIL WATER ALERT** to ensure safety while ever you are using the delivered water.

"Council is working closely with NSW Health and DPIE Water to ensure water is of appropriate quality for the residents of Tenterfield", said Mayor Peter Petty.

"Councillors and staff are very aware of the impost this has created for our community as we and our families, are part of the community and share with you in this plight. We ask that you continue to respect this alert and be particularly mindful of the potential affect unboiled drinking water may have on the elderly and the very young," the Mayor added.

ENDS