



Media Release

13 October 2019

RECYCLED WATER - EMOTION VERSUS REASON

Many areas in NSW, and wider Australia, need to address their long-term plans of management related to securing water supplies. Without water nothing else matters. The amount available can be the difference between celebrations versus commiserations.

Council will be receiving a report on 30 Oct 2019 in relation to collaborating with the NSW Government to *investigate* the use of recycled water to further support the long-term secure supply of water to the Tenterfield Township.

Many cities including London, and whole countries around the world have been successfully recycling water for decades. Further, a great many regional towns around Australia, especially NSW, take water from rivers and dams that towns upstream pump treated sewage water directly into, including Warragamba Dam (Sydney's water supply).

There are a great many pros and cons which need to be investigated. Most relate to technical, financial and current and future environmental circumstances we may face, whilst others relate purely to human emotion.

Council hopes our new bores will be successful giving us all the water we need. However, recent lessons have taught us that it is difficult to rely on a single 'Plan B'.

Presently the bore at Shirley Park is supplying 68% of the town's daily water needs. The Tenterfield dam is at 26% capacity, but there is up to 2.8 metres of silt in the base. If the bore stopped the dam water would reach critical levels three times sooner than anticipated.

Even if the desired quantity of water from our current searches is achieved, it must be sustainable. Over 70% of the test bores drilled so far, some of which drilled through very deep river sand giving us much hope, have delivered negligible amounts of water.

The Transport Museum site may provide suitable quantities. But the testing is yet to confirm this, as the bores behind the Museum are on the same creek that the Shirley Park Bore draws from, so we may just be pumping from the same water source. The yet to be completed draw-down tests will confirm.

Running out of water and needing to transport by truck to a great many NSW towns, including Tenterfield, is extremely problematic. It is usual that a drought of this magnitude covers a wide area which would require water to be carted vast distances as surrounding areas would be also suffering water shortages.

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