

Water conservation

Rous County Council

Rous's role is to deliver high-quality drinking water for the Northern Rivers that supports the region's health and prosperity. We are securing a sustainable and resilient water supply that will meet the community's needs to 2060 and beyond through water saving initiatives and an expanded range of water supply sources.

Meaningful conservation

Rous is committed to the responsible use and supply of water. Our focus is on improving the efficiency of our water distribution system as well as supporting people to make meaningful changes to reduce the use of this limited natural resource.

Water saving initiatives

A new pilot program has been designed to help us better understand what water saving tools, such as water-efficient appliances or processes, are of most value to the community and that will support long-term water efficiency.

Education and engagement continue to be a key focus and includes community groups and local events. There is also a targeted and appropriately resourced education program for primary and secondary schools.

Through the Sustainable Water Partner Program, we support a variety of different businesses, including energy providers, holiday parks and fitness centres, to optimise their water consumption and reduce their footprint on the region's water supply.

Rous's rainwater tank rebate program is also available to eligible residential customers who wish to reduce their consumption of town water. While beneficial, rainwater tanks are limited in their capacity to provide long-term security as they are ineffective during dry weather, when we need them most.

Targeting water loss

Rous saved more than 80 million litres (32 Olympic swimming pools) of water in 2022/23 through advanced acoustic leak detection technology as part of a water-loss management program. A budget of \$1.9 million has been committed to this four-year program, which also includes pressure management, bulk flow metering and meter calibration.

In 2023/24, more than 2,000 of Rous's direct water customers will receive smart meters to help find and repair leaks quickly and to enable mindful water use.

Key points:

Water is a limited natural resource, and we are all responsible for its efficient use.

Water conservation is important to the water security of the Northern Rivers, but this alone will not meet the combined challenge of a changing climate and population growth.



Since 1995, people in the region have reduced their water use by 50 per cent. This is a commendable effort, with more yet to be done. Use the home water calculator and find out how much more water you can save.

