

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY FOR 2023 – 2024

September 2024



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Rous County Council is a bulk water supplier providing water to local reservoirs where local councils then take over the job of distributing the water within their townships. Rous County Council supplies bulk water to Ballina Shire Council, excluding Wardell; Byron Shire Council, excluding Mullumbimby; Lismore City Council, excluding Nimbin; and Richmond Valley Council, excluding Casino and all land west of Coraki. Rous County Council also has approximately 2100 of its own customers who are directly connected to the water distribution system.

The water that Rous County Council supplies to our community comes from different catchment areas in the region. Rous County Council operates two Water Treatment Plants (WTPs), Nightcap WTP and Emigrant Creek WTP to filter and treat the water from our dam and river sources.

Monitoring drinking water quality

We monitor water quality at each stage of the supply system to ensure you receive drinking water that meets the quality requirements of the Australian Water Drinking Guidelines. Water is tested to ensure that drinking water is safe to drink and meets established water quality standards. It is also tested to enable the adjustment of treatment processes, to monitor catchment conditions (including during heavy rainfall events), maintain the health of the dams, determine the effectiveness of improvement programs, or for research and development.



Independent quality control testing is carried out by NATA accredited laboratories and NSW Health. In addition, there is continuous real-time monitoring of key parameters such as pH, turbidity, and chlorine.

Water samples are collected from more than 50 different sites throughout the Rous supply system. In addition, our Constituent Councils also test the water delivered to their customers. The results presented in this report are from samples collected from the Rous bulk network, reticulation systems and supply reservoirs throughout the supply system to verify that the water we supply meets the quality requirements of the Australian Water Drinking Guidelines.

What’s tested

Your water is regularly tested for more than 70 physical, chemical, microbiological, and radiological parameters in accordance with NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program and Australian Drinking Water Guidelines to ensure the best water quality possible.

Operational target levels for all parameters are set well inside of the published guideline values, so that if the concentration or level of any of the parameters in the water starts to change, action can be taken to address the issue before the guideline value is reached.

In addition to the data provided in the table below, we conduct analysis for numerous pesticides, herbicides, disinfection by-products, and other compounds in both raw water and treated water to ensure that we have a complete understanding of water quality at all stages of the treatment process.

**Your water quality complied with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
for the supply period of 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.**

Treated Water Quality Test Results - 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

Guideline Value		Guideline Basis		Number of Samples	
<i>E. coli</i>	MPN/100 mL CFU/100 mL	100% of test results contain no <i>E. coli</i>	Health	100% of test results contain no <i>E. coli</i>	1775

	Unit	Guideline Value	Guideline Basis	Average Results	95th Percentile Result	Number of Samples
Aluminium	mg/L	0.2	Aesthetic	< 0.01	0.02	302
Antimony	mg/L	0.003	Health	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	10
Arsenic	mg/L	0.01	Health	< 0.001	< 0.001	10
Barium	mg/L	2	Health	0.00283	0.0038	10
Boron	mg/L	4	Health	0.01411	0.0183	10
Cadmium	mg/L	0.002	Health	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	10
Calcium	mg/L	-	-	22	26	548
Hardness as CaCO ₃	mg/L	200	Aesthetic	59.1	68	548
Chloride	mg/L	250	Aesthetic	16	19	8
Chlorine (Free)	mg/L	5	Health	1.16	1.67	2202
Chromium	mg/L	0.05	Health	< 0.001	< 0.001	10
Colour (True)	Pt-Co	15	Aesthetic	<1	1	1101
Copper	mg/L	2(1)	Health (Aesthetic)	0.0081	0.02	21
Fluoride	mg/L	1.5	Health	0.95	1.04	1476
Iodine	mg/L	0.5	Health	< 0.02	0.02	10
Iron	mg/L	0.3	Health	<0.01	0.01	311
Lead	mg/L	0.01	Health	0.0006	0.002	10
Magnesium	mg/L	-	-	1.03	1.70	458
Manganese	mg/L	0.5(0.1)	Health	0.0014	0.0020	253
Mercury	mg/L	0.001	Health (Aesthetic)	< 0.0008	< 0.0008	10
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.05	Health	0.00012	0.0002	10
Nickel	mg/L	0.02	Health	< 0.0004	< 0.0004	10
Nitrate	mg/L	50	Health	< 1	1	10
Nitrite	mg/L	3	Health	< 0.1	< 0.1	10
pH	pH units	6.5-8.5	Aesthetic	7.93	8.37	2203
PFAS	µg/L	0.07	Health	<0.01	<0.01	4
PFOA	µg/L	0.56	Health	<0.01	<0.01	4
Selenium	mg/L	0.01	Health	< 0.007	< 0.007	10
Silver	mg/L	0.1	Health	< 0.0002	< 0.0002	10
Sodium	mg/L	180	Health	16	18	10
Sulphate	mg/L	500(250)	Health (Aesthetic)	< 2	2	10
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	600	Aesthetic	122.25	140	539
Turbidity	NTU	5	Aesthetic	0.16	0.27	2160
Uranium	mg/L	0.017	Health	< 0.0001	0.0001	10
Zinc	mg/L	3	Health	0.01	0.01	21