

Media statement

Thursday, 9 August 2018

With NSW drought declared residents are encouraged to be water wise

With the NSW Department of Primary Industries officially declaring the entire state in drought, regional water supply authority Rous County Council is encouraging local residents to continue to save water where they can.

Until now, the North Coast has been either classified as being not in, or recovering from, drought. Today's announcement upgrades the region's declaration to drought affected.

Although the region's principal water source, Rocky Creek Dam, is currently at 95% capacity, saving water everyday is important.

Level one water restrictions will be activated if Rocky Creek Dam drops to 60%.

"Locally, residents have a great track record with saving water. Since the 1990's average water use has dropped by around 45%", said General Manager, Phillip Rudd.

"Saving water and using this resource wisely, is something Rous County Council encourages the community to always do. There are a number of simple everyday steps that can help reduce our water use."

These include:

- Watering your garden after 3pm and before 10am.
- Fitting all hand-held hoses with a trigger nozzle, so you can turn off water instantly.
- Use a broom or outdoor blower to clean pathways, driveways and decking.
- When washing your vehicle or boat, use a bucket or hand-held hose fitted with a trigger nozzle. Wash it on the grass where water will run off onto the lawn or garden.

As an incentive to save water, Rous County Council offers a rebate of up to \$2,170 for residents currently connected to town water in the Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley local government areas to purchase and install a new rainwater tank.

To check whether you are eligible for a rebate call Rous County Council's Water Sustainability Officer, Kylie Bott direct on (02) 6623 3835.

In the meantime Rous County Council continues to progress the delivery of the Future Water Strategy which identifies how the region's water supply will be secured for the next 50 years, taking into consideration the growing population and changing climate.

Media inquiries please call: General Manager, Phillip Rudd, 6623 3800