

STAFF WORKING TO ISOLATE CONTAMINATION

Dubbo Regional Council Director of Technical Services Stewart McLeod advises that the Boil Water Notice for parts of Dubbo will most likely remain in place until at least the end of the week while staff concentrate on identifying and isolating the contamination, and further sampling is undertaken.

“Staff have been following anti-contamination procedures since last Thursday when the first failed water sample was received, with low levels of e-coli detected,” Mr McLeod said.

“The standard procedure at that stage is to take further samples, begin flushing of lines and increase chlorine levels,”

“After a second, low level read of e-coli came through over the weekend, the same actions were continued and an inspection of the reservoir took place,”

“Further sampling was conducted on Sunday, and a teleconference was called with Public Health on Monday morning to call a Boil Water Notice as a precautionary measure while investigations continue,” Mr McLeod said.

“Although there have been improvements observed since testing began, two clear samples need to be returned from NSW Health before the all clear can be given.”

“Obvious sources of contamination such as deliberate tampering have been ruled out so staff are conducting ongoing active investigations to isolate the source.”

“These actions are being undertaken by Council staff who are also consulting regularly with NSW Public Health and the Chair of the DRC Drinking Water Quality Committee Clara Laydon, who was brought on board as an independent advisor and to assist with collating data for reporting purposes.”

“I would like to reiterate that the processes that have been followed by Council during this period reflect the best practice of the industry and will continue to do so.”

The Boil Water Notice is currently in place for North Dubbo, west of the railway line, and Central and South Dubbo west of Fitzroy Street.

Media contact: Dubbo Regional Council Director Technical Services Stewart McLeod (02) 6801 4000.

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