

Council News

Spring 2019 edition

Test drilling starts to find more town water



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www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au

ARMIDALE
Regional Council

Message from the Mayor

Water restrictions and our dwindling town water supplies continue to be the biggest issue confronting our region.



Level 5 restrictions are now in place for town water customers in both Guyra and Armidale and we now have a 'Day Zero' when our remaining supplies are estimated to run out if we don't receive substantial rain.

A fantastic community effort has reduced our average water consumption from 222 litres per person per day to 180 litres per person per day, pushing that Day Zero deadline back from October 2020 to around December next year.

With long-term forecasts predicting below average rainfall and above average temperatures for at least the next few months, it is still vital we continue to reduce that consumption level down to our target of 160 litres.

See pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter for

further reminders about ways to save water in the home.

At the same time, Council is working with businesses – focusing largely on the biggest water users – to help them identify ways to curb their water use.

Council this month began test drilling to locate suitable ground water supplies to supplement the town supplies.

Hydrogeology consultant Hydroilex shortlisted a total of 36 sites in the Guyra and Armidale areas that are likely to provide significant groundwater supplies with suitable water quality.

The test drilling and any subsequent production bores would be sunk several times deeper than existing nearby bores, to avoid tapping into groundwater supplies already being utilised by adjacent landholders. Other measures will also be in place to avoid impacting on shallower ground water supplies. However, if the test drilling locates suitable groundwater reserves to supplement the town supplies and once the location of production bores is known, Council will liaise with adjacent landholders.

Contractors are also continuing on a program of repairing hidden leaks in the town water supply systems, after visual and acoustic monitoring

The \$12.85 million Malpas Dam to Guyra pipeline is now fully operational, linking Guyra to the region's main water storage and giving its community greater water security.

The 19.6 kilometre pipeline, assisted through \$12.375 million in NSW Government funding, is now operating at the full capacity of the Guyra water treatment plant. It enabled Council to stop trucking water to the Guyra treatment plant, after the town came within weeks of running out of water.

Each of these measures is helped to extend our remaining supplies. However, the most effective thing we can do as a community is to minimise consumption to ensure we continue to have water for essential needs until long-awaited rain arrives.

**Simon Murray
Mayor**

Youth survey for library strategy

A new Armidale Regional Libraries survey is turning the focus onto what local young people need and expect from their libraries.

The youth survey will be distributed to schools throughout the region but Council is hoping to hear from all young people to help shape the 21st Century Libraries Strategy.

"We've had tremendous feedback from the older age groups, with several hundred responses to a general community survey," Councillor Debra O'Brien said.

"That gave us great insight to what they thought of current library facilities and services. The strategy will really benefit from further input from the Under 25s, who often have different needs or want to use the libraries in different ways."

She said the youth survey had a greater

emphasis on new technology and services more likely to interest younger people.

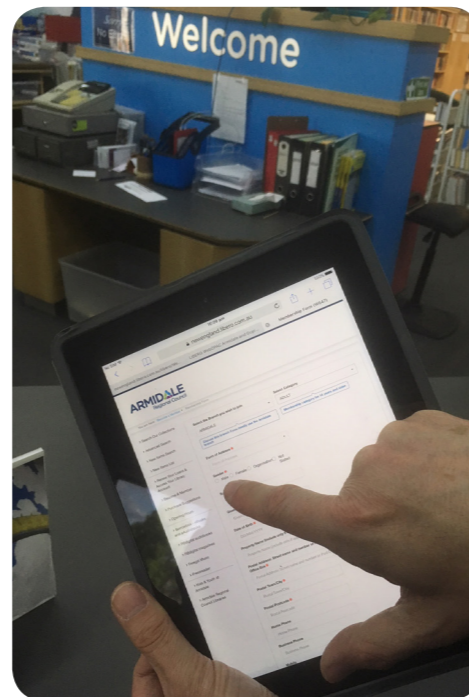
The youth survey can be completed online on the 21st Century Libraries Strategy page on Council's Your Say Armidale website.

We want to hear from all young people, including those who rarely or never use the Armidale or Guyra libraries.

What would make these places and their services more interesting for you?

The libraries can be particularly useful tools for young people as part of their learning, as they explore and develop their interests and prepare for their future lives.

How do Under 25s like to use the libraries to study, explore their interests or simply use them as a fun place to catch up with friends and participate in activities?



Joining Armidale Regional Libraries is now quicker and easier, with iPads available at the library front counters to submit membership applications. It takes just a few minutes to register to be able to borrow books, electronic materials and other resources from the libraries' fantastic collections.

Sign up for eNotices

Enjoy the convenience of receiving and paying **your rates and water bills online**

To find out how:

- visit the Rates page on our website
- check your rates or water notice
- ask our customer service staff



Guyra main street upgrade



LEFT & BELOW: Reconstructing the road base for Bradley Street in a major step for the Guyra Main Street Upgrade. Stage 2 works will take a break during the Christmas period to minimise the impact on local traders.

A revitalisation of Guyra's main street passed a major milestone this month, with a restructure and reseal of Bradley Street between Nincoola Street and Ollera Street.

The \$700,000 roadworks are a major step in Stage 2 of an upgrade of the Guyra Central Business District.

The discovery of groundwater and sub-standard materials beneath the previous road surface prompted deeper excavation during the roadworks.

"As a result, a deeper base had been created for the new road, which will help to extend its lifespan," Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray said.

Stage 2 also includes street scaping and new traffic furniture along the newly reconstructed section of Bradley Street, as well as liaison with property owners to address any structural and safety issues with shopfront awnings.

Line marking and the construction of traffic islands and other street furniture will conclude the works for 2019.

"We will avoid doing works during December and January, so we don't impact on businesses during their busy holiday period," Councillor Murray said.

"Work will resume after the Christmas school holidays and the annual Lamb & Potato Festival."

The \$600,000 Stage 1 included main street upgrade designs, identifying and



remediating disused fuel tanks beneath the road and footpaths, dealing with soil contamination caused by the fuel tanks, inspecting infrastructure beneath the road and assessing the structural integrity of shop awnings.

As part of Stage 2, Essential Energy will begin planning and designs for electricity infrastructure along Bradley Street, to remove powerlines from the shop awnings.

Restructuring and resurfacing Bradley Street between Nincoola Street and Mackenzie Street is scheduled to be undertaken as Stage 3 in the 2020/21 financial year.

Roadworks briefs

Drought affects annual gravel re-sheeting program

The current drought conditions have had an impact on Council's gravel road re-sheeting maintenance program due to the availability of water.

Council would like to advise rural residents that regular schedules may be affected. Council is working through the program of works while trying to source limited water. Council asks residents to drive to the conditions.

Elm Avenue roundabout

A new roundabout will be constructed at the intersection of Trevenna Road and Elm Avenue to improve vehicle flows at the traffic blackspot.

Construction work is scheduled to start in early 2020 to avoid disruption to students returning to the UNE campus for semester 1.

Designs are being completed for the roundabout, which is being funded through the Federal Government's Black Spot Programme.

Kempsey Road upgrades

A \$4.67 million upgrade of Kempsey Road has begun starting with the reconstruction of two tight corners.

Work will include reducing the radius on two tight turns to open up the corners and allow improved access.

The works will be the first in 13 individual projects along an infamous section of Kempsey Road known as Big Hill, with the entire program scheduled to be completed over three years.

The NSW Government has funded the project through the Fixing Country Roads program, to improve traffic safety and enhance accessibility for larger vehicles.

Drought counselling

Drought conditions being experienced across the New England North West region are placing extreme financial and emotional strain on our farmers and regional communities. A Rural Financial Counselling service is available in Armidale.

6778 4784 or 0408 936 268
Email: armidale@fcsnr.org.au www.fcsnr.org.au/counsellors/armidale/



Report it Pay for it
Ask for it Look for it
Do it all Online

Self service

www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au

Level 5 water restrictions

Level 5 trigger 1 and days to zero - what does this mean for you?



Level 5 - trigger 1
5 411 days til day zero
 Target 160Litres/person/day

Trigger 2
5 250 days til day zero
 Target 120Litres

Trigger 3
5 Crisis 60 days
 Target 50Litres

The following restrictions apply to the use of water supplied through the water reticulation system in the Armidale Regional Council area:

Activity	Level 5 -trigger 1
Residential	
Garden sprinklers and fixed hoses	Banned at all times
Hand held hoses, drip irrigation	Banned at all times
Buckets/cans to water gardens and lawns	Banned at all times (except recycled water e.g. laundry or shower water)
Vehicle washing	Buckets for windscreen, windows, number plates and mirrors only. Emergency Service vehicles excepted.
Washing down hard surfaces	Banned at all times
Filling or topping up private swimming pools, spas or ornamental ponds	Banned at all times
Cleaning of rubbish bins, tools and related equipment including animal enclosures/kennels	Cleaning for health and safety purposes only. Allowed at any time using water efficient means.
Outdoor showers	Banned at all times

Recommended daily water usage
Target 160L/person/day

Water patrols
 Council is stepping up water patrols to ensure residents are adhering to Level 5 restrictions. Fines are being issued for residents and businesses that don't comply with the bans. Monitoring now includes water patrols on weekends and outside business hours. In addition, residents are encouraged to continue to report water restriction breaches on the Council website through the self service/report it menus.

Activity	Level 5 - Emergency
Commercial & Industrial	
Cleaning vehicles at truckwash	Restricted operating hours.
Building and Construction	Use of town water for dust suppression on construction sites is not permitted. Other uses of town water on construction sites require an application for an exemption.
Road construction and maintenance	Use of town water not permitted. Use alternative water source as appropriate.
Water carting (No water carting outside Armidale Regional Local Government Area)	No carting by commercial carters from Guyra's water supply. Small volumes of water can be carted from Armidale at Council's new filling station at the Arboretum.
Nurseries	Buckets or water can only
Automatic flush toilets	On demand only, no automatic timers

Business action plans
 Council is liaising with businesses to help implement Water Saving Action Plans. This includes a free audit, access to a business rebate scheme (Major water users only), water saving promotional pack and ongoing support in reducing water consumption.

Exemptions
 Water restriction exemptions issued by Council before 1 October 2019 are no longer valid. Businesses, groups and individuals seeking exemptions after Level 5 restrictions were implemented MUST resubmit an exemption form. The forms are available on Council's website or at Council's Customer Service Centres at 135 Rusden St, Armidale or 158 Bradley St, Guyra

What does 160 litres per day look like?



- On average one dishwasher load uses approx. 15 litres. To save more water wait until your dishwasher is full.
- Use a bucket to collect the water in your shower before it reaches temperature. This water can then be stored and used for washing hands, cleaning teeth, preparing food, water for pets or even for pot plants.
- Remember to turn the tap off while brushing your teeth and washing hands with low tap pressure.
- Only wash your clothes when you have a full load. You can also setup a simple system to collect the washing water for the garden. It is preferable to use laundry detergents low in phosphorous and sodium to avoid detrimental affects on soil and plants.

Bore test drilling

Contractors are test drilling a number of potential bore sites to find ground water sources to supplement the Armidale region's dwindling town water supplies. Test drilling began this month after Hydrogeology consultant Hydroilex shortlisted a total of 36 sites in the Guyra and Armidale areas that are likely to provide significant groundwater supplies with suitable water quality. "If the test drilling identifies suitable ground water sources and we have a clear picture of locations for production bores, we will keep the community informed about those sites," Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray said. "Each of the sites is located on public land, close to roads and power supplies, and the drilling and bore operations will be undertaken in a way that does not impact on adjacent landholders. However, Council will liaise with landholders near the production bores to outline the project and address any concerns. "While Hydroilex's studies have identified sites with the right attributes for significant supplies of good-quality groundwater, we are still in the preliminary stages until we actually know if there is water in those locations." Visit www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au for more information.



Contractor McKechnie Drilling undertakes test drilling at one of the potential bore sites on Rockvale Road.



St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers Paul Burton and David Kanaley, The Hub at Guyra Centre Co-ordinator Chris Hietbrink, Northern Tablelands MP Adam Marshall, Armidale Regional Council Deputy Mayor Libby Martin and Mayor Simon Murray at the laundry

Laundry for rural residents

Rural residents in the Guyra district are reminded there is a now a free community laundry service available to assist local households who have run out of domestic water supplies and are waiting for carted water to be delivered.

Assisted by valuable financial support from the State Government, Council is providing the service at the Guyra showgrounds from 7am to 5pm, seven days a week. The service was launched

last Friday and can be accessed via Park Avenue, rather than the showgrounds main entrance.

Water for the washing machines is being accessed from the showground bores and, as part of monitoring how often the service is being used, we are investigating how water from the machines can then be recycled and reused.





Steps are also being taken to improve accessibility at the laundry service.



Water wise Rebates

Residents can get financial assistance to buy a rainwater tank and water-efficient washing machine, toilets and showerheads, under a new rebates program.

Each eligible household can claim:

-  2 showerheads
-  1 dual flush toilet
-  1 front-load washing machine
-  1 rainwater tank or combination of interconnected tanks that meet the qualifying volume (rebates are not available for tanks that are a requirement of building approval under BASIX scheme)

Rebates apply to new water saving products only.

Are you eligible for the rebates?

The property must be connected to Council's reticulated town water supply system. The applicant must own the residential property where the products are installed, or have permission of the owner and pay the water usage account. The applicant must have already ordered, paid for and installed the products.

Council will consider claims that meet the requirements of the rebate scheme if products were purchased and installed after 29 May 2019 (when Level 4 water restrictions began).

Visit the Water Restrictions page on Council's website for more information about the rebates program or to apply for a rebate. Application forms are also available at Council's offices.

What's on Highlights

Black Gully Festival - 9 Nov. 2019

An annual community event celebrating community, music and biodiversity. Market stalls, art, food, drink and live music.

Time: 11am

Venue: Behind NERAM, Kentucky Street
www.facebook.com/blackgully/

Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase - 21 Nov. 2019

The creme de la creme of the 2018 Sydney Comedy Festival.

VENUE: Hoskins Centre, The Armidale School, enter from Chapel Street.

TIME: 7.30pm. COST: \$32.50.

For more information, 6776 5800

For more events go to www.armidaleregional.nsw.gov.au/events

Locate your local leash-free area

Dog owners can exercise their pets at several off-leash exercise areas in Armidale and Guyra.

All are equipped with appropriate waste disposal including poo bags and water points.

Leash-free areas are designed to allow pet owners to exercise their animals without a leash in an open environment where they are not likely to impact on other recreational area users. Owners are still required to be able to control their dog before releasing them for exercise and they must immediately clean up after their animals.

Armidale leash-free areas:

- Southern end of Taylor Street - behind Moran Oval (fenced)
- Parkland between Taylor Street at the Wicklow Fields causeway and Erskine Street (partially fenced)
- Charlston Willows Recreation Area, Rockvale Road – approximately 5km north of town.
- Pedestrian walkway west from Niagara Street (behind Brogan Street) to UNE
- Shambrook Avenue (fenced)

Guyra leash-free areas:

- Leggo Park, Guyra

Council is in the early stages of investigating an additional leash-free area for Guyra. Visit the Council website for a map of leash-free area locations and other information.

Regional playground brings birthplace to life

The birthplace of Armidale is about to spring back to life, as historical studies at Curtis Park kicked off this month to prepare for a new regional adventure playground.

Archaeology experts from the University of New England used a ground-penetrating radar on 18 October to scan the park and help locate building foundations and other structures buried beneath the park.

The survey is an initial step in a Council study of the heritage significance of Curtis Park – which was once the heart of Armidale – as part of planning for the Armidale Regional Adventure Playground.

"That collaboration will include locating the foundations of a number of buildings that were central to life in Armidale, before public buildings and other permanent structures were moved away from the floodplain," Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray said.

"That information will be extremely valuable in guiding the playground design, to work around existing structure beneath the park's surface, but can also show us how that heritage could be incorporated into the playground and surrounding public space.

"For example, a proposed flying fox could follow the path of the former Great Northern Road, which ran diagonally between Faulkner Street and Dumaresq Street. References to that history, such as



University of New England archaeology Professor Martin Gibbs (right) demonstrates the ground-penetrating radar to Council Senior Project Manager Larissa Bittencourt (left), Council's Aboriginal Community Development Officer, Cyril Green, and UNE Adjunct Associate Professor Archaeology Dr Pam Watson.

the old flour mill and shop, could add a fascinating and informative heritage aspect to the playground space."

UNE archaeology experts used a radar capable of locating structures up to six metres below the ground surface, to scan Curtis Park and cross reference with existing

maps and historical records of the site.

Construction of the adventure playground, including public amenities and fencing along the boundaries next to the roads, is scheduled to start by the end of March 2020 and is expected to take about six months.

Next steps for bridge renewal program

Planning is underway for the next stages of Council's timber bridge replacement program, with work scheduled to replace bridges on Cooks Road and Rockvale Road in May 2020.

The old timber bridges at Dumaresq Creek on Cookes Road, Armidale and Pint Pot Creek on Rockvale Road, Thalgarrah will be replaced with wider reinforced concrete structures, at a total expected cost of \$1.3 million.

Plans for the Dumaresq Creek bridge incorporate a separated cycleway.

Major maintenance work is scheduled for Karuala Bridge on Old Armidale Road, west of Guyra, and Burns Gully Bridge on Platform Road, Kelly's Plains, in November.

There will be some disruptions for traffic during the maintenance works, however, all works are scheduled to be completed within a week, weather permitting.

Detours will be in place and signposted

for both projects.

Project updates, including changes to traffic flow, will be available on Council's

website. Further information is also available by contacting Project Manager Larissa Bittencourt on 1300 136833.



The Boundary Creek Bridge was one of two structures replaced by culverts on Rockvale Road as part of Bridge Renewal Program works in August.

Want to have your say? Register now at yoursay.armidale.nsw.gov.au

Council meetings

The general public is welcome to attend any Armidale Regional Council meeting:

- Wednesday 27 November 2019, 4pm in Armidale
- Wednesday 11 December 2019, 4pm in Guyra
- Wednesday 26 February 2019, 4pm in Armidale

Please note: workshops and closed sessions (in private) are not open to the public.



Live Streaming

Council meetings are now streamed live on our youtube channel or via our website!

Participate at a Council meeting

Public access is available for members of our community to voice their opinion on an issue at Council.

Public access will only be granted for items listed on the agenda.

Each address will be limited to a maximum of two (2) speakers for and two (2) speakers against the agenda item.

The address is to be no longer than five (5) minutes.

How to apply

Requests must be submitted by 12 noon on the day prior to the meeting.

A form is available on our website under 'Participate at a Council Meeting'

Contact Us



Call: 1300 136 833

Email: council@armidale.nsw.gov.au

Visit a Customer Service Centre @

135 Rusden St, Armidale or
158 Bradley St, Guyra

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Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray (left), Deputy Mayor Lib Martin, Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall, Councillor Andrew Murat, Member for New England Barnaby Joyce and Roads & Maritime Services representative Vicky Sisson.



Roundabout opening turns attention to business park

A valuable piece in the puzzle for economic development in the Armidale region was celebrated when Federal, State and Council representatives officially opened the New England Highway roundabout next to Armidale Regional Airport.

Armidale Regional Council Mayor Simon Murray was joined by the Federal Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce, and NSW Member for Northern Tablelands Adam Marshall in opening the roundabout, which will provide a safer and more convenient entrance to the airport and the adjacent Armidale Regional Airport Business Park under development.

"With tenders now being called for the construction of infrastructure at the business park, the roundabout will be extremely valuable in providing connectivity to this new

commercial hub," Councillor Murray said.

"Adam and Barnaby's support for this roundabout project, and the financial contributions of the State and Federal Governments, not only demonstrates their focus on safety on the New England Highway, it also shows they recognise the importance of the business park to this region's economic prosperity.

"The business park overcomes a shortage of suitable commercial land in the Armidale region and fully capitalises on our first-class regional airport and our location on an important north-south highway route."

The two-lane roundabout will significantly improve traffic flows and safety for motorists on the highway. The \$4.2 million project has been jointly funded by Council, State and the Federal Governments.

Beat the heat & have fun

The Guyra and Monckton aquatic centres are open for summer fun

Visit Council's website for opening times and admission prices

