

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY FOR 2021 – 2022

July 2022



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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.

**Your water quality complied with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
for the supply period of 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.**

Water quality test results 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

		Guideline Value	Guideline Basis	Number of Samples	
E. coli	MPN/100mL	100% of test results contain no E. coli	Health	100% of test results contain no E. coli	1342

	Unit	Guideline Value	Guideline Basis	Average Results	95th Percentile Result	Number of Samples
Aluminium	mg/L	0.2	Aesthetic	0.01	0.02	201
Antimony	mg/L	0.003	Health	0.001	0.001	24
Arsenic	mg/L	0.01	Health	0.001	0.001	8
Barium	mg/L	2	Health	0.002	0.003	8
Boron	mg/L	4	Health	0.01	0.02	8
Cadmium	mg/L	0.002	Health	0.0001	0.0001	24
Calcium	mg/L	-	-	21.2	26.0	345
Hardness as CaCO ₃	mg/L	200	Aesthetic	53	65	246
Chloride	mg/L	250	Aesthetic	14.8	18.2	8
Chlorine	mg/L	5	Health	1.05	1.44	1479
Chromium	mg/L	0.05	Health	0.001	0.001	15
Colour True	Pt-Co	15	Aesthetic	1.7	2.5	1257
Copper	mg/L	2(1)	Health (Aesthetic)	0.01	0.014	24
Fluoride	mg/L	1.5	Health	0.97	1.04	1772
Iodine	mg/L	0.5	Health	0.02	0.02	8
Iron	mg/L	0.3	Health	0.01	0.01	217
Lead	mg/L	0.01	Health	0.001	0.002	24
Magnesium	mg/L	-	-	1.0	1.7	348
Manganese	mg/L	0.5(0.1)	Health	0.004	0.007	217
Mercury	mg/L	0.001	Health (Aesthetic)	0.0008	0.0008	8
Molybdenum	mg/L	0.05	Health	0.0001	0.0002	8
Nickel	mg/L	0.02	Health	0.003	0.007	24
Nitrate	mg/L	50	Health	0.5	1.2	19
Nitrite	mg/L	3	Health	0.05	0.12	19
pH	pH units	6.5-8.5	Aesthetic	7.93	8.39	1388
Selenium	mg/L	0.01	Health	0.007	0.007	8
Silver	mg/L	0.1	Health	0.0002	0.0002	8
Sodium	mg/L	180	Health	17.6	19.8	8
Sulphate	mg/L	500(250)	Health (Aesthetic)	2.1	2.7	8
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	600	Aesthetic	127	148	200
Turbidity	NTU	5	Aesthetic	0.16	0.28	1389
Uranium	mg/L	0.017	Health	0.00001	0.0001	8
Zinc	mg/L	3	Health	0.02	0.09	24