

Monday 6th February 2017

Storage and Rainfall Update

Rainfall was recorded at South Gippsland Water's storages from **28th January – 3rd February 2017**. Lance Creek 12mm, Ruby Creek 5mm, Coalition Creek 7mm, Deep Creek 0mm, Little Bass 0.2mm and Battery Creek 2mm.

Total rainfall figures for January 2017 were Lance Creek 51mm, Ruby Creek 24mm, Coalition Creek 42mm, Deep Creek 36mm, Little Bass 35mm and Battery Creek 20mm.

Philippe du Plessis, Managing Director, South Gippsland Water said, "All water supply systems have continued to drop as the weather has become warmer, rainfall has decreased and demand for water across communities, particularly coastal townships, increases."

Pumping from the Tarwin River to supplement Korumburra's water supply system commenced last week and, although there was rainfall over the weekend, a great deal of the water received will most likely have been absorbed by dry catchments.

"Any run-off reaching South Gippsland Water's storages is influenced by the surrounding catchment and the quality of water entering rivers and reservoirs needs to be continually monitored during periods of warm weather to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water," explained Mr du Plessis.

Warmer weather conditions can also, occasionally, bring about changes to the taste and smell of water, particularly at times when there is less fresh rain water entering storages and increased sunshine results in algae growth.

Last week, some customers in Yarram reported changes to the taste and smell of their water. This is the result of the presence of algae affecting the Tarra River Water Supply System. Following these reports, South Gippsland Water flushed some parts of the reticulation system and adjusted the treatment processes at the Devon North Water Treatment Plant.

When algae are present in water storages or supplies, South Gippsland Water activates increased monitoring and treatment processes to remove it, however, due to human sensitivity (some algae can be tasted at 10 parts per trillion, i.e. a single drop in two Olympic-sized swimming pools!), not all the taste or smell can be removed.

"Customers should rest assured that the algae present in the system is not hazardous to health," confirmed Mr du Plessis. "South Gippsland Water will continue to monitor the raw water and treatment processes to best manage the changed taste in water."

Any customers who have questions or concerns regarding their water supply can contact South Gippsland Water's friendly Customer Service Team on **1300 851 636**.

Reservoir	Major towns supplied	Capacity level %	Current Status
Lance Creek	Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cape Paterson	82	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Ruby Creek	Leongatha and surrounds	75	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Coalition Creek	Korumburra and surrounds	73	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Foster Dam – Deep Creek	Foster area	100	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Little Bass	Poowong, Nyora and Loch	79	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Battery Creek	Fish Creek	84	Permanent Water Saving Measures

River Systems	Major Town Supplied	Current Status
Tarwin	Meeniyan, Dumbalk	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Agnes	Welshpool, Port Welshpool, Toora, Port Franklin	Permanent Water Saving Measures
Tarra	Yarram, Alberton, Port Albert	Permanent Water Saving Measures