

# Media release

Thursday, 13 February 2020

## For immediate release

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### Rocky Creek Dam finally spills

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After a night of heavy rainfall in the Rocky Creek Dam catchment, the dam level is at full supply with more than 300mm flowing over the spillway on Thursday morning.

This is a welcome sight after a prolonged period of unseasonal dry conditions with the dam last spilling in October 2018. Rainfall readings for Rocky Creek Dam show that in the first 6 weeks of 2020, we have had the same amount of rainfall recorded in 2019.

"Although there has been a considerable amount of rainfall over the region in the last few weeks, not all of it has fallen over the Rocky Creek Dam catchment," said Andrew Logan, Planning Manager at Rous County Council. "However, with the overnight heavy rain, the dam has now reached capacity and the decision has been made to lift all water restrictions."

This applies to the council areas of Ballina, Byron (excluding Mullumbimby), Lismore (excluding Nimbin), and Richmond Valley (excluding Casino). Lismore City, Byron Shire and Richmond Valley Councils will continue to manage water restrictions for Nimbin, Mullumbimby and Casino independently.

"We had a good response from the community during the water restrictions period," said Rous County Council General Manager, Phillip Rudd.

"It's been a tough few months going from an intense dry period to widespread rainfall, with water restrictions still needing to be kept in place. Generally, people have understood our role to ensure that we aren't reacting too quickly to remove restrictions until we had that certainty of supply."

"Now that the Rocky Creek Dam level is more than 100%, it certainly takes the pressure off."

Regardless of water restrictions being lifted, Rous County Council will continue to keep the community's focus on reducing water consumption in our homes and gardens, so that in the event of another extended dry spell, we can be in a better position.

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For further information, please contact Andy Sibley, Communications and Engagement Coordinator, on 0428 305 193.

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### About Rous County Council

Rous County Council (RCC) is a multipurpose county council delivering bulk water, weed biosecurity and flood mitigation services to the Northern Rivers of NSW. RCC's constituent councils are Lismore, Ballina, Byron and Richmond Valley:

- **Bulk water:** The regional water supply authority. It provides water in bulk from its principal supply sources at Rocky Creek Dam and Emigrant Creek Dam servicing around 100,000 people.
- **Weed biosecurity:** The local control authority for weed biosecurity. Operations cover an area of more than a million hectares including Kyogle and Tweed shires, which are serviced by agreement with those councils.
- **Flood mitigation:** The flood mitigation authority across the local government areas of Ballina, Lismore and Richmond Valley.

RCC also operates Richmond Water Laboratories in Lismore, providing professional sampling and analytical testing services for water and soil to NSW councils, private industry and the public. The laboratory is National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited.

[www.rous.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rous.nsw.gov.au) / [www.waterlab.com.au](http://www.waterlab.com.au)

