



The Flinders
Ranges Council

MEDIA RELEASE

NO DRINKING WATER FOR QUORN

14 APRIL 2020

The Flinders Ranges Council calls on the Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) to reconsider its position of stripping out essential improvements to drinking water quality in the Flinders Ranges. This call follows the release of ESCOSA's SA Water Draft Regulatory Determination 2020 which removed \$22 million in regional water quality improvements for Quorn, Wilmington and Melrose.

These improvements were intended to upgrade the aesthetic quality of water in these communities, such as taste, odour and colour by connecting these communities to the Whyalla Morgan pipeline.

The towns of Quorn, Wilmington, Melrose have been identified as a priority by SA Water for these essential upgrades using multiple criteria, including social, technical and financial inputs, customer research and complaints data and for obvious reasons the quality of the water.

Mayor Slattery noted that the most recent test results received from SA Water identified that the water in Quorn failed a number of compliance measures, including scoring a 0% compliance rating for chloride, sodium, total dissolved solids and total hardness, with a 2% compliance rating for free chlorine levels.

The failure to meet these compliance measures has a real impact on the community, the cost of replacing water heaters, tap fittings, buying in drinking water, the loss of tourism and the lost economic opportunities with business choosing to go elsewhere is significant.

Mayor Peter Slattery also stated that "It is interesting that the regional water quality improvement items were cut out of the plan, while those in urban areas have been left in. It certainly makes one question whether ESCOSA is looking out for rural communities." Mayor Slattery also pointed out that it was disappointing that ESCOSA did not consult widely before making such significant cuts to communities that have been hit hard by drought, COVID 19 and were facing an uncertain economic future.

Mayor Slattery called on ESCOSA to seriously reconsider their Adelaide centric approach stating that "The bush pays the same as everyone and deserves drinkable water and what we are being provided at present is far from that, give us a fair go, drinkable water is a basic human right."

ENDS

Media enquiries

Mayor Peter Slattery

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0435 082 505