

Water filling stations

Water filling stations across the Shire are in place to fill large containers.

While water restrictions are in place, residents can apply for an exemption to use non-approved containers to transport water taken from filling stations.

Water from the Shire's filling stations complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and is safe to drink without further treatment. However, it is essential to collect water into clean containers to make sure it remains safe to use.

- Use a suitable container that has not held hazardous substances.
- If the container hasn't been used for a while, rinse any hoses and taps, other fittings, and the inside of the tank with drinking water before filling.
- Seal the container and hoses to protect from contamination during transport.
- Ideally, household tanks should be cleaned before refilling. If not, fill carefully to avoid stirring up sediment.

For further information on the location of filling stations please contact **Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200**.



ksc.pub/water

For everything you need to know about **water restrictions Do's & Don'ts** - visit the above url on the Kempsey Shire Council website.

Wet wipes block pipes

Wet wipes may have 'flushable' written on the packaging, but these disposable cloths create a world of pain in sewer systems, causing expensive - and disgusting - blockages at our pump stations.

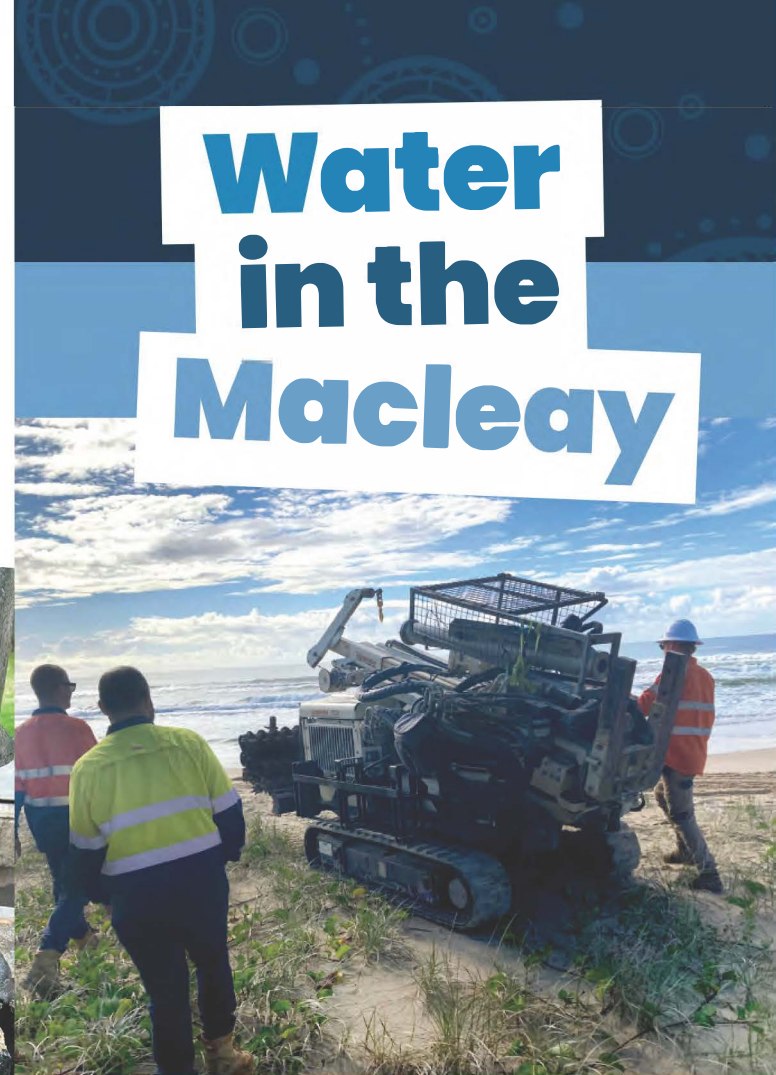
Toilets and their accompanying septic or sewer systems are designed to receive the Three Ps: Pee, Poo and Paper. Anything else, such as **cotton buds, sanitary products, and wet wipes will create blockages further down the chain, and wet wipes are the worst offenders, causing 75% of all sewer blockages.**

We're calling on residents to **'bin the wipe'**, literally.

Some problems are hard to solve, but every individual can choose how they dispose of their household waste - bin your wipes, and flush only pee, poo and toilet paper.

For more information on what can and can't be flushed down the toilet or put down the drain visit:

ksc.pub/binthewipes



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ksc.pub/e-news 



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Shire Council

ksc.pub/water

Steuart McIntyre to have dam good water

We are planning to build a **new water treatment plant at Steuart McIntyre Dam** that treats both bore water from the Sherwood bores and stored water from the 2,500 megalitre storage dam. This water supply provides water to Kempsey, Frederickton, Smithtown, Gladstone and the associated rural areas and townships servicing approximately 18,000 residents.

The existing treatment system is no longer suitable due to its inability to effectively treat the water in the supply area or sustain a reliable supply.

The dam water supply is susceptible to algal blooms but the new treatment system will mean a more dependable and consistent supply, especially when access to water from the Sherwood bores is restricted during drought as it is now.

The new plant will mean better drinking water security for our current population and it will also be able to meet the growing needs of the Lower Macleay.



Better water for Willa

Early works to build a new water treatment plant are already underway within the Willawarrin Showground Precinct. The current system is unable to consistently supply water of a quality that meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines in a safe and secure manner and the infrastructure is at the end of its useful life.

The new water treatment plant will be built next to the sportsground and it will continue to treat the water drawn from the bores.

Our contractor is on site completing work to support water treatment plant operations.

These early works include:

- Building new water pipelines.
- Installing electrical and communications cabling.

The pipelines will connect:

- The bores at the Macleay River to the new water treatment plant.
- The water treatment plant to the town water supply.

Construction of the new water treatment plant is expected to start in early-mid 2024.

More water ahead for Crescent

Crescent Head is one of the Shire's most popular destinations for visitors and local alike. That's why it is so important to have a modern, safe and secure

water supply. The new water treatment plant, to be located within the current plant site, will treat the drinking water supply sourced from the Maguires Crossing borefield.

Currently the borewater is treated by a chemical dosing system first constructed in 1987, applying a very basic water treatment approach. **The new system will treat water to Australian Drinking Water Guidelines** and be able to cater for the 1,600 permanent residents as well as the additional 4,800 to 6,400 people that stay in Crescent Head during the peak holiday periods.



Wastewater treatment for Central Kempsey

A new wastewater treatment plant is proposed for Heyson Street, West Kempsey to replace the existing West Kempsey, South Kempsey and Frederickton wastewater treatment plants. This project is only in the early planning stage and we will keep you up to date as it progresses.

Head to our current works page to stay up to date on all these projects - ksc.pub/current-works

MESSAGE FROM THE GM

Saving water, a role for us all

Water is our most precious resource and your Council is planning to deliver the infrastructure to secure it. Those projects are outlined in this brochure, but there is also a role for us all.

Our water cycle relies on the flow of the Macleay River, which is impacted by rainfall in the upper Macleay catchment, the area that extends from Armidale to Walcha and across to Bellbrook. In other words, rainfall in the Kempsey Shire does not necessarily mean a high river flow and no water restrictions.

In times of low river flow, Steuart McIntyre Dam supplies water directly to Kempsey and the Lower Macleay but is also used to truck water to areas from Willawarrin and Bellbrook.

That is why our Councillors have determined we should always be acting as one in our approach to water restrictions.

Our water restrictions limit the use of water throughout the community in order to preserve potable (drinkable) water.



Under water restrictions, we ask residents to save water wherever you can and adhere to the restrictions by reducing outdoor water usage and lowering overall consumption. While Council has a range of enforcement measures, we are appealing to the community to take responsibility and do their part to conserve our water.

Our water restrictions campaigns in 2019 lowered consumption by almost 20 per cent. This behavioural change helped to make the water we had last longer and meant we didn't go to harsher restrictions as neighbouring shires were forced to do so.

No matter the level of water restrictions, Council needs your help to manage water, whether you are a resident or a visitor.

Being water-wise means:

- Understanding the local Kempsey water cycle.
- Not wasting water or taking it for granted.
- Protecting our valuable water supplies so they are sustainable.

While it is not possible to predict the length of time restrictions will be in place, as residents we should always be water-wise, and Council will continue to monitor water levels and keep the community up to date with any changes.

For more information on the restrictions visit ksc.pub/savewater



Water restrictions

Kempsey Shire has five stages of water restrictions. The measures under each restriction have been made uniform across the NSW North Coast region, from the Great Lakes area to the Tweed Shire.

We monitor four key water indicators which combined trigger the need for water restrictions. These are average rainfall, river flow, useable Steuart McIntyre dam level and average daily water usage.

AVERAGE RAINFALL

Our water supply relies upon rainfall in key catchment areas

RIVER FLOW UPDATE

A large portion of our shire is reliant upon a strong river flow for water supply.

STEUART MCINTYRE USEABLE DAM LEVEL

It is already a sign of water shortage if the dam is providing water for daily use. The dam level is a key factor in determining which level of water restrictions are in place.

AVERAGE DAILY WATER USAGE

A vital metric used to decide which water restrictions are required is the average daily water usage by our community.

To see the latest data for each topic, please head to ksc.pub/weekly-water-update.

WASTE & SEWER – MAJOR PROJECTS

Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme

The Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme will provide **a modern and reliable sewerage service to the Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Fishermans Reach** communities.

The project involves the construction of a pressure sewer system to service approximately 600 properties, a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to treat the sewage and dual discharge for disposal of treated wastewater.

The pressure sewer system is made up of an underground tank and pump at each property which collects sewage and



discharges it through a network of pressure pipes to the treatment facility. This will replace the current system where properties across the three villages, including three holiday parks, use either septic tanks or pump-out systems. Many of these existing systems don't meet today's standards of treatment, quality or size and are having negative environmental and social impacts on the community.

Planning and construction of the Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme is highly complex and requires state government environmental and planning consent called a **State Significant Development (SSD)**, involving the preparation and public exhibition of an **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**. This work is now underway and we anticipate a planning consent in early 2025.

ksc.pub/stuarts-point-scheme

Water program for now and our future

Improving water and sewerage services across the region is key to making Kempsey a better place to live, work and visit. To better serve our communities, we have embarked on a program of works to provide safe and reliable drinking water that meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, along with a sewerage management system that protects the health of communities and minimises impacts on the environment.

In collaboration with our regulators, we are planning the delivery of five key projects including three new water treatment plants, a local sewerage scheme and a centralised wastewater treatment plant.

The projects are:

- Stuart McIntyre Dam Water Treatment Plant.
- Crescent Head Water Treatment Plant.
- Willawarrin Water Treatment Plant.
- Stuarts Point Sewerage Scheme.
- Central Kempsey Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The \$250 million program of works is funded by Kempsey Shire Council in partnership with the NSW Government.

