

Media Release



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Dam levels up and satisfaction running high

Heavy spring rains have filled the Macedon Ranges' largest reservoir, Rosslynne, to more than 40 per cent of capacity, compared to around four per cent at the same time last year.

The Campaspe Reservoir and other reservoirs supplying Woodend are now at 100 per cent capacity, after a wet November ended a 12-year run of below-average rainfall.

However, water will not be taken from Rosslynne for the local drinking supply until next year, according to Western Water's Managing Director, John Wilkinson.

"We are planning to leave Rosslynne to settle for a few months to improve the water quality, and complete some capital works we have under way at the reservoir's water filtration plant," Mr Wilkinson says.

"We expect to start using water from Rosslynne for the local drinking supply in the first half of next year, but until then Gisborne, Macedon, Mt Macedon and Riddells Creek will continue to receive water from the Melbourne catchments."

The news comes as a new report shows Macedon Ranges and Sunbury residents are more satisfied than ever with the quality of their drinking water.

Western Water's 2009-10 Water Quality Report shows complaints about water quality have dropped by 44 per cent on the previous year to just 2.1 complaints per 1,000 customers.

More than 80 per cent of households supplied by Western Water use unfiltered tap water as their main source of drinking water, up from 74 per cent in the previous year.

"We already had a very low rate of complaints about water quality, but to see the rate dropping even further is good news," Mr Wilkinson, says.

"It's a big achievement considering we delivered 10,600 million litres of drinking water to our customers this year," Mr Wilkinson says.

"The report also shows we had 100 per cent compliance with government safe drinking water regulations and the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act."

Customers rate the quality of their tap water at an average 8.3 out of 10 when asked to consider aspects such as colour and taste, according to the report. Again, this was an improvement on the previous year.

Western Water is investing in infrastructure across the region to ensure drinking water remains at the same high standard, and sewerage is dealt with safely and efficiently.

"Over the next year we are working on new projects, including spending \$1 million on a borefield at Romsey to improve the reliability of the town's water supply, and \$4 million on a storage tank at Rosslynne."

The full Drinking Water Quality report is available to read at Western Water's website, www.westernwater.com.au.

About Western Water

Western Water is one of Victoria's 13 regional urban water corporations. We provide water, recycled water and sewerage services to over 53,000 properties and 134,810 people in an area of 3,000 square kilometres. Our region extends from Lancefield in the north to Melton and Rockbank in the south and from Myrning in the west to Bulla in the east. We incorporate parts of Hume City Council and Melton, Moorabool and Macedon Ranges Shire Councils.

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