

Response from Tamborine Mountain organisations and residents to SRRC's media release of 20th December

Scenic Rim Council blocks locals getting local drinking water

What outcome was the mayor trying to achieve with this press release? Why was the decision made to respond with enforcement notices to the two applicants who could have relieved the current situation?

We were very disappointed to read the reaction to the water issues as this was a bad decision by the Mayor & CEO and council offices. There is no empathy shown for local residents, and while we might disagree regarding the imminent emergency, the facts are clear - there is a lack of local water with a current 6 week wait time unless water is sourced from the Gold Coast or Logan (as Canungra standpipe is now closed). These off mountain deliverers are at a higher cost which creates a significant financial burden to businesses and families.

Local delivery is \$190 – off mountain ranges from \$300-500 depending on size of load and distance. Some families & businesses are doing it tough and are not able to afford high water delivery costs on top of other bills. Many businesses are still recovering from the effects of the fire and loss of trade.

Why does the community consider the situation an emergency? As stated in the Planning act "an imminent and definite threat requiring immediate action to ensure a person's life or health is not endangered" needs to be experienced to declare an emergency. We have a duty of care to all residents including the elderly, the young and those with serious health issues who are very vulnerable when it comes to water use, both for drinking, cooking and showering. Many of these residents have, because of health issues, limited financial resources: the suggestion to use water trucked in from Logan and the Gold Coast leads to a huge increase in the price of water. This is NOT a reasonable alternative nor is it needed, because millions of litres are being taken off the mountain every week when this should be prioritised for residents and businesses on the mountain.

100million litres (approx.) are leaving the mountain annually in tanker loads to be put into plastic bottles! Our 2 applicants for Section 166 should be allowed to supply the abundant, available local water, until the monsoon starts.

We also believe there is false information in the release and unsubstantiated regarding a 'new bore hole has been sunk' as this has not occurred at either of the two businesses that sought Section 166.

While the council says no without consultation, and wastes time liaising with water utilities and the broader water carrier industry, local residents continue to suffer, and bores continue to dry up, without a resolution in sight.

The community love the lifestyle and not having reticulated water but need a water management plan moving forward, so that local community water remains on the mountain, for the locals, to secure the future of our hinterland and home.

Save Our Water Tamborine Mountain, Tamborine Mountain Chamber Commerce, Tamborine Mountain Progress Association, and local residents of Tamborine Mountain.