

2 March 2021

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Dear Valued Customer,

UPDATE ON WATER SITUATION IN MOUNT MORGAN

I know the last 12 months in particular have been very challenging, and I want to allay any anxieties about your access to water. I am writing to reaffirm Rockhampton Regional Council and Fitzroy River Water's commitment that you will not be left without access to clean drinking water under any circumstances. The remaining 280 ML in the dam is expected to provide water for another three to six months, even if there is no rain at all, so there is no immediate threat to your supply.

However we want to make sure we are ready to provide water to you from another source if this becomes necessary. Therefore this week we will be commencing trial tanker deliveries of water from Gracemere to the Mount Morgan Water Treatment Plant. The trial will be used to make sure that when required we can deliver approximately 20 tanker loads per day to supply Mount Morgan with at least 0.5 ML per day – this equates to 160 litres of water per person per day. These trials will allow us to fine tune the arrangements and logistics of trucking the water up to Mount Morgan to ensure that water supply to Mount Morgan customers is ongoing.

I want to thank you for continuing to reduce water usage, and extending the life of the remaining supply in Mount Morgan No. 7 Dam for as long as possible. Your efforts are remarkable and are greatly appreciated. As I'm sure you're aware, the significant rainfall we hoped for has not happened and the volume in the dam is continuing to fall: it is currently sitting at 9.9%. 10% is a trigger point in our Drought Management Plan, which means a report will go to the next Council meeting to consider whether or not to introduce any further restrictions.

We are also continuing to explore the feasibility of other options for improving the long term water security in Mount Morgan. These include a new dam site on the Nine Mile Creek, a pipeline from Gracemere to Mount Morgan, treating the mine-pit water, increasing the capacity of the dam, excavating Fletcher Creek and a pumped hydro scheme.

Rockhampton Regional Council and FRW are planning to hold a public meeting in Mount Morgan in the coming weeks to provide an update on the tanker trial, share information about the other options being explored, and to hear your thoughts. We will write to you once we have a date and location confirmed and will share the information on our website and the Rockhampton Regional Council Facebook page.

We have also created a central page for all Mount Morgan water related information on our website, which will be regularly updated: www.rrc.qld.gov.au/mountmorganwater.

If you have any questions in the meantime please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can call us on 4932 9000 and we will be happy to help.

Thank you again for your tremendous efforts in reducing your water use, and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting if you are able to attend.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Jason Plumb
Manager
Fitzroy River Water