

Fact Sheet

Water Quality

Despite media reports to the contrary drinking water supplied by Rockhampton Regional Council (Fitzroy River Water) is safe to drink.

The following information is in response to questions from water customers as well as refuting recent media reports.

What is happening

The dissolved mineral content (e.g. sodium, magnesium, calcium and potassium salts) in the raw water in the Fitzroy Barrage Storage has increased since the January 2011 flood event. This has resulted in an increase in the mineral content in the drinking water supplied from the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant to Rockhampton, Gracemere, The Caves and parts of the Capricorn Coast.

What you might see

Some customers may notice a change through the taste of the water or may visibly observe a fine dry residue on cutlery or other surfaces such as in kettles or on heating elements. If this occurs, residents may wish to brush the accumulated residue away.

This higher than normal mineral content in the Fitzroy River Barrage storage area will remain elevated until sufficient rainfall is received to flush the existing water out.

What does this mean for you

The water continues to be safe to drink. Queensland Health is responsible for the monitoring the public health including the impacts of water quality. Queensland Health can be contacted for further information.

Queensland Health has advised that people who are on a low sodium diet, for medical reasons, should monitor their intake and may need to drink a source of low sodium water.

Our water is safe to drink

Rockhampton Regional Council assures residents that the water supplied by Fitzroy River Water is safe to drink and continues to meet the specified health values in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The recommended acceptable average daily sodium intake for an adult is 1600 milligrams. At the current levels of approximately 60 milligrams per litre you would need to drink more than 26 litres of water per day to exceed the average intake through water supply.

