

17 January 2019

Boil Water Alert – *E. coli* bacteria contamination

Residents of Coolah are advised that *E. coli* bacteria has been detected in the town water supply.

Warrumbungle Shire Council regularly monitors drinking water to ensure its safety and recent testing has detected *E. coli* bacteria in the Coolah water supply.

Detection of *E. coli* bacteria means that drinking water in the Coolah water supply is unsafe.

E. coli in drinking water shows that the water may be contaminated with faeces and organisms that may cause gastrointestinal illness.

Water used for drinking or food preparation should be brought to a rolling boil to make it safe. Kettles with automatic shut off switches can do this. Water should then be allowed to cool and stored in a clean container with a lid and refrigerated.

Bottled water or cool boiled water should be used for drinking, washing uncooked food (eg. salad vegetables and fruit), making ice, cleaning teeth, gargling and pet's drinking water.

Dishes should be washed in hot soapy water or in a dishwasher.

Children should take bottled water or cool boiled water to school.

Warrumbungle Shire Council is currently investigating how the contamination occurred and taking steps to ensure that no further contamination takes place.

This advice should be followed until further notice.

For further information in relation to this Boil Water Alert, please contact Manager Warrumbungle Water, Cornelia Wiebels on (02) 6849 2000.