



Media Release

Monday 13 May 2013, 2pm

## **Rolleston water update**

Test results returned today have indicated that *e.coli* is not present in the Rolleston water supply.

This follows the issuing of a precautionary boil water notice for the Rolleston Water supply yesterday when a test result was returned indicating that *E.coli* was present at levels above the recommended level in one bore which feeds into the town supply.

Selwyn District Council Water Asset Manager Murray England says that because the Council requires three clear days of water test results to confirm there is no danger of contamination, residents on the Rolleston water supply still need to keep boiling their water until the Boil Water Notice is officially lifted.

Mr England says there are a number of reasons why water testing could have returned a positive test yesterday. These could include a lab error, a sampling error, contamination of ground water or backflow contamination.

“Until we have received additional test results to confirm there is no *E.coli* present it is important that people continue to boil water before consuming it as we cannot confirm the water is safe to drink,” he says.

Mr England says that the positive *E.coli* result was unusual, given that the Rolleston town supply is drawn from deep water bores where the risk of contamination is very low.

“When we received the results we decided to issue a boil water notice to avoid the risk of anyone becoming sick,” he says.

Sheffield township also has a boil water notice in place, following heavy rainfall which increased the turbidity of the water supply.

Other water supplies in Selwyn District are safe to drink and no other water supplies have boil water notices in place.

