

Rural town Down Under bans all bottled water sales

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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA — Bundanoon, a rural town of 2,500 located about 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of Sydney, is the first in Australia — and perhaps in the world — to ban the sale of bottled water throughout the community, the Associated Press (AP) [reported](#) on July 9.

Residents got behind the “Bundy on Tap” campaign, designed to promote publicly supplied drinking water and reduce the potential environmental impact of bottled water.

A number of other local governments throughout the world have banned the sales of bottled water within municipal buildings or have banned its purchase by municipal agencies, but the ban in Bundanoon applies to all bottled water sales throughout the community.

John Dee, who spearheaded Bundanoon’s tap water campaign, also is director of Do Something!, an Australian environment group. He noted the quality of publicly supplied water, and was quoted as saying, “We’re hoping it will act as a catalyst to people’s memories to remember the days when we did not have bottled water.”

Residents of the town have been battling bottled water concerns for years, the AP reported. Residents are fighting a proposed bottled water extraction plant that would pump local water that would then be shipped to Sydney for bottling.

In other Australian bottled water news, the state premier of New South Wales on July 9 banned all state departments and agencies from buying bottled water.