

**Media Release:**

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## **First Results of Bore Water Testing Received**

Initial results for recent free bore water testing conducted by the Territory Government have been received by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS).

NRETAS Director for Water Resources Ian Lancaster said 449 results have so far been received from 1197 samples that were sent for testing, with seven of these samples recording minor traces of arsenic.

“Of the seven samples that recorded traces of arsenic, one was from Humpty Doo, one from Howard Springs and five from within the Darwin River region,” Mr Lancaster said.

“We are today notifying the seven bore owners to inform them of their initial sample results and discussed recommendations for further testing.

“All bore owners that submitted samples for testing will be notified of their results as they are received from the Northern Territory Environmental Laboratory through NRETAS, and will be provided with recommended courses of action depending on the results of their bores.

“The level of arsenic found in these samples was above the health guideline value recommended in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, which have been developed by the National Health and Medical Research Council.”

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines set conservative health or aesthetic guideline values.

The Guidelines use current knowledge to determine the concentration of a water characteristic that does not result in any significant risk to the consumer over a lifetime of consuming water from that source.

The Guidelines' health threshold value for arsenic is 0.007 mg/L. Seven out of 449 samples recorded above this value, with ranges between 0.0075 to 0.0305 mg/L. While these results pose no immediate danger to people, further samples should be taken and further advice on long term drinking water options can be provided on those results.

Results from the seven samples that recorded minor traces of arsenic are as follows:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Milligrams per litre</b>
Howard Springs	0.01
Humpty Doo	0.0205
Darwin River	0.0175
Darwin River	0.0285
Darwin River	0.0305
Darwin River	0.0075
Darwin River	0.024

Mr Lancaster said the free bore water testing also tested for the presence of other metals, and so far 59 samples have revealed exceedances of some metals including barium, cadmium, copper, manganese, nickel, lead or antimony.

“We believe at this preliminary stage that bores that have recorded elevated levels of other metals have done so based on the geology of the area, which has transferred traces of metal to the water.

“The remaining results are expected to all be received by the end of September and bore owners will be notified accordingly,” Mr Lancaster said.

“These results are a timely reminder to bore owners to ensure they conduct regular testing of their bore water.”

Ends

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