

**Media Release:**

**08.09.11**

## **Update on Results of Bore Water Testing**

An additional 117 results for the 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), bringing the total number of results received to 566.

An additional two samples have recorded minor traces of arsenic that have exceeded the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines threshold value.

While these results pose no immediate danger or risk to public health, repeat samples should be taken to confirm the water quality and then further advice can be provided to landowners on those results, including long term drinking water options and health information by officers from NRETAS and Department of Health.

NRETAS Director for Water Resources Ian Lancaster said the landowners had been spoken to regarding these results.

“Of the two new samples that recorded traces of arsenic, one was from Humpty Doo and one from the Adelaide River region,” Mr Lancaster said.

“I have spoken with the two bore owners to inform them of their initial sample results, and the detailed results have been sent with an accompanying letter of explanation and fact sheets.

“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' health threshold value for arsenic is 0.007 mg/L. Nine out of 566 samples recorded above this value, with ranges between 0.0075 to 0.043 mg/L.

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.

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

<b>Date released</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Milligrams per litre</b>
30 Aug 2011	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
8 Sept 2011	Adelaide River	0.043
	Humpty Doo	0.017

An additional 14 samples have revealed exceedances of some metals including barium, cadmium, copper, manganese, nickel, lead or antimony; believed at this preliminary stage to be due to the geology of the area, which has transferred traces of metal to the water.

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 remaining results are expected to all be received by the end of September and bore owners will be notified accordingly.

Ends

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