

Media Release:

15.09.11

Bore Water Testing Results Confirm Elevated Arsenic

Results from follow-up samples taken on Tuesday by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) for water in two private bores and a connected tank utilised by the Lake Bennett body corporate have returned elevated readings of arsenic.

The two private bores have readings of 0.027 milligrams per litre and 0.036 milligrams per litre, while the main tank that connects to these two bores has a reading of 0.154 milligrams per litre.

These results are above the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines health threshold value for arsenic, which is 0.007 milligrams per litre.

The Department of Health advises that residents and visitors of the privately owned units that utilise the bores and tank drink bottled water until the water quality is assured. Information on arsenic in drinking water can be found at:

http://www.health.nt.gov.au/Environmental_Health/Water_Quality/index.aspx#FactSheetsWaterQuality

NRETAS has contacted the Lake Bennett body corporate to inform them of these results and have advised the body corporate to seek expert advice from an independent consultant as to appropriate action from here.

NRETAS is today retesting the water at the request of the body corporate to offer further confirmation that these results are accurate and consistent and these results are expected on Monday.

NRETAS attended the Lake Bennett body corporate site on Tuesday to take water samples from two bores, the water tank connected to these bores, and the nearby lake, after one of the bores showed preliminary readings of 0.188 milligrams per litre from the Territory Government's recent free private bore water testing.

The results received are as follows:

Water source	Reading from sample taken by community on 17/07/11	Reading from sample taken by NTG on 13/09/11
Bore A	0.188 milligrams per litre	0.027 milligrams per litre
Bore B	0.005 milligrams per litre	0.036 milligrams per litre
Main tank	0.004 milligrams per litre	0.154 milligrams per litre
Lake	No samples submitted	0.0005 milligrams per litre

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines health threshold value for arsenic is 0.007 milligrams per litre.

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.

While no samples were originally submitted through community testing for the lake water, the lake was included in the follow-up testing and results returned were 0.0005 milligrams per litre, which is under the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The Lake Bennett Wilderness Resort is a separate entity to the Lake Bennett body corporate; and the Resort does not connect to, or utilise the bores or tank that have been tested and have readings above the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines nor does the Resort use the lake for drinking water.

Ends

**Attachments: Department of Health Arsenic in Drinking Water factsheet
View of Lake Bennett area**

Issued: 2.45pm Thursday, 15 September 2011.