

**Media Release:**

**23.09.11**

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

An additional nine sample results received by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) have recorded traces of arsenic above the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), from a total of 1197 samples sent for testing as part of the recent bore water testing conducted by the Territory Government.

This brings the total to 24 samples out of 976 results so far received that have recorded traces of arsenic that have exceeded the ADWG threshold value of 0.007 milligrams per litre.

The Department of Health advises that these bore owners should take repeat samples to confirm the water quality and drink bottled water until their water quality can be assured.

NRETAS Director for Water Resources Ian Lancaster said all bore owners that have results with readings of arsenic above the ADWG had been spoken to regarding their results.

"I have spoken with all 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," Mr Lancaster said.

"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.

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.

An additional 134 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.

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

Date released	Region	Milligrams per litre			
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			
15 Sept 2011	Adelaide River	0.013			
	Humpty Doo	0.014			
	Noonamah	0.025			
	Lake Bennett	Bore A	0.188*	0.027**	0.024***
		Bore B	0.005*	0.036**	0.005***
		Tank	0.004*	0.154**	0.013***
23 Sept 2011	Darwin River	0.014			
	Fly Creek	0.009			
	Lake Bennett	0.011			
	Lake Bennett	0.014			
	Lake Bennett	0.017			
	Virginia	0.085			
	Knuckey Lagoon	0.01			
	Livingstone	0.085			
Humpty Doo	0.018				

\* Reading from community sample taken 17/07/11

\*\* Reading from follow up testing done by NTG taken 13/09/11

\*\*\* Reading from second testing done by NTG taken 15/09/11

Ends

**Media note – attached map identifies regions that bore samples were submitted from under the free community sampling.**

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