

Issued by the Director of Public Health
under the *Public Health Act 1997*

Tasmanian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines

Containing legal requirements for
drinking water suppliers in Tasmania

Effective
2 November 2015

Issuing Statement and Commencement Date

I, Dr Mark Veitch, being and as the Acting Director of Public Health, acting pursuant to a direction under section 21A of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*, and the *Public Health Act 1997* (the Act), hereby:

1. revoke previously issued guidelines under the Act relating to drinking water; and
2. issue these Guidelines, being the *Tasmanian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines*; and
3. determine that these Guidelines come into effect on and from **2 November 2015**.

Dr Mark Veitch
A/Director of Public Health
2 November 2015

PART 3 PRIVATE DRINKING WATER SUPPLIERS

Note

Under section 133 of the *Act*, a *private drinking water supplier* must register with the *council*. There are 2 exceptions to this:

1. Registration is not required if the supplier is a food business that is already registered with the council under the *Food Act 2003* and the supply of water from a *private water source* occurs as part of the conduct of that food business.
2. Registration is not required by a person who supplies water from a *private water source* as part of a residential tenancy agreement or a contract to lease premises (for example a short-term holiday rental agreement or a long-term lease).

Under section 136A of the *Act*, a *private drinking water supplier* must supply water in a manner that does not pose a *threat to public health* and must comply with *council* registration conditions and relevant guidelines issued under the *Act* (see below). Registration conditions may include requirements to sample and test water to determine compliance with ADWG guideline values.

14. Water quality monitoring

- (1) Pursuant to section 130(2) of the *Act*, the Director requires a *private drinking water supplier* to monitor, prior to using and at intervals of not more than 12 months, each *private water source* under its management or control via visual inspection(s) to determine whether:
 - (a) it is free from obvious sources of contamination; and
 - (b) it is maintained so as to prevent contamination; and
 - (c) it is compliant with conditions of registration, the *Act* and these Guidelines.

15. Notifying a threat to public health

- (1) For the purposes of section 128(1B) of the *Act*, a *private drinking water supplier*, on becoming aware that the quality of *drinking water* that it manages or controls is, or is likely to become, a *threat to public health* must notify the *council* in whose municipality the *private water source* is located in accordance with the procedures set out at clause 15(2) below.

- (2) The notification procedure is as follows:
 - (a) The *private drinking water supplier* must make immediate telephone contact with the *council*.
 - (b) Upon making contact as above, the *private drinking water supplier* must inform the *council* of the circumstances relating to the *threat to public health* and the action being undertaken to remove, correct, prevent and monitor that threat.
 - (c) The *private drinking water supplier* must provide to the *council* written confirmation of the matters at clause (b) above within twenty-four (24) hours after the initial telephone contact under clause (a).

16. Supply controls

Microbiological non-compliance or compliance unknown

- (1) A *private drinking water supplier* may only supply *drinking water* that is non-compliant with relevant microbiological ADWG guideline values or where compliance with microbiological ADWG guideline values is not known if, prior to supplying, the *private drinking water supplier* provides to the *private drinking water recipient* written advice of the matters referred to in the generic boil water advisory template in the ADWG.

Non-microbiological non-compliance or compliance unknown

- (2) A *private drinking water supplier* may only supply *drinking water* that is non-compliant with non-microbiological ADWG guideline values or where compliance with the non-microbiological ADWG guideline values is not known if, prior to supplying, the *private drinking water supplier* provides to the *private drinking water recipient* written advice that the water, even if boiled, cannot be safely consumed and is therefore not to be used for drinking or cooking purposes.

Rainwater tanks

- (3) A *private drinking water supplier* using a rainwater tank in the supply of *drinking water* may only supply *drinking water* if the *private water supplier* has complied with the *enHealth rainwater tank guideline*.

17. Warnings and information

- (1) Where, after the supply of *drinking water*, a *private drinking water supplier* becomes aware that *drinking water* the *private drinking water supplier* has supplied is non-compliant with microbiological guideline values in the ADWG, the *private drinking water supplier* must, as soon as practicable after becoming so aware, provide the *private drinking water recipient* written advice of the matters referred to in the generic boil water advisory template in the ADWG.
- (2) Where, after the supply of *drinking water*, a *private drinking water supplier* becomes aware that *drinking water* the *private drinking water supplier* has supplied is non-compliant with non-microbiological guideline values in the ADWG, the *private drinking water supplier* must, as soon as practicable after becoming so aware, provide the *private drinking water recipient* written advice that the water, even if boiled, cannot be safely consumed and is therefore not to be used for drinking or cooking purposes.

APPENDIX A

Public Health Officers

The person(s) occupying the following position(s) within Public Health Services Department of Health and Human Services (Tas) is a *Public Health Officer* for the purposes of these Guidelines:

- *State Water Officer*
- *Senior Environmental Health Officer*
- *State Manager, Environmental Health Services*

Contact details

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