

Committee Inquiries Question on Notice

Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

Inquiry into the extent, regulation and management of PFAS

IQ25-000176

**Division/Agency:** DIV - Territories

**Hansard Reference:** Spoken, Page No. 20 (08 September 2025)

**Topic:** PFAS levels in Wreck Bay and Jervis Bay

**Lidia Thorpe asked:**

Ms Rush: You asked earlier in relation to informing community in Wreck Bay and Jervis Bay territory in relation to PFAS levels. It might be helpful for the committee to be aware that we do report monthly in relation to PFAS levels in the drinking water. We provide letterbox drops to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community, at the moment, in relation to drinking water testing levels, which are well below the national standards. That's something we do monthly.

CHAIR: Well below the Australian national standards?

Ms Rush: Yes, the Australian national standards.

CHAIR: Those are still very high and unacceptable. When did the letterboxing start?

Ms Rush: I'd have to take that on notice. I think it's been in train for a couple of years, at least.

CHAIR: It certainly wasn't when we visited.

Ms Rush: When you visited early this year?

CHAIR: We visited last year, and there was no letterboxing from anybody about PFAS levels at Wreck Bay.

Ms Rush: I can come back to the committee on that to clarify the commencement date.

**Answer:**

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts has provided the monthly newsletter outlining PFAS water testing to residents of Wreck Bay since 31 March 2021. These are delivered to post boxes in Wreck Bay by Australia Post. An electronic version of the results and a link to the department's online newsletter is also sent to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council Chief Executive Officer and Community Engagement Officer.

**Attachments**

- Attachment A – Community Bulletin 31 March 2021
- Attachment B – Community Bulletin 20 August 2025



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Communications



## Community Bulletin

### JERVIS BAY TERRITORY

<b>Number:</b>	2021/04	<b>Date:</b>	31 March 2021
<b>Relevant:</b>	Jervis Bay Territory residents and visitors		
<b>Topic:</b>	Jervis Bay Territory drinking water		

### JBT drinking water - PFAS testing results

Testing for March 2021 shows that Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) levels in JBT drinking water remain many times lower than levels recommended by the [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#).

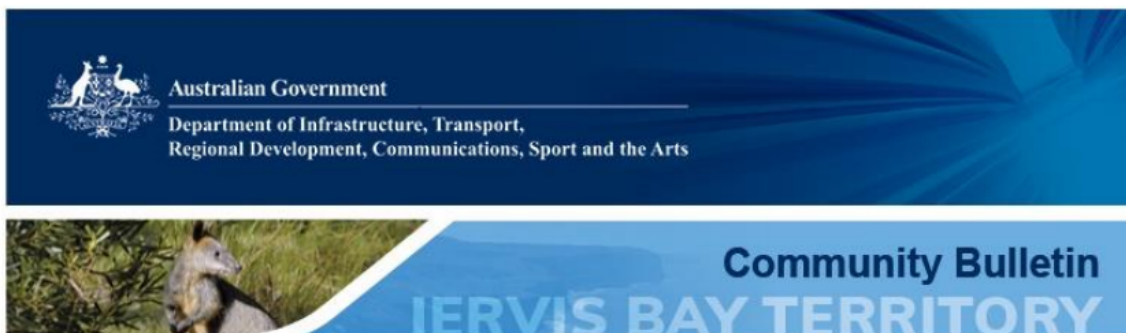
The Guidelines are set by the National Health and Medical Research Council. They are regularly updated to make sure they are based on the latest scientific evidence.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications undertakes routine monthly testing for PFAS in JBT's drinking water and engages an independent laboratory, accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities, to do this work.

This monthly testing continues to show drinking water is well within the national guidelines. The health and safety of JBT residents and visitors remains our first priority. We will continue to keep the local community informed on testing results.

	Sum of PFOS & PFHxS	PFOA
<b>JBT drinking water</b> March 2021 test results	0.0004 micrograms/litre	0.0005 micrograms/litre
<b>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines</b> Health values for PFAS	0.07 micrograms/litre	0.56 micrograms/litre

For general information on PFAS health effects and exposure pathways, contact the Department of Health on 1800 941 180, or see the fact sheet: <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas.htm#pfas>.



**Number:** 2025/18 **Date:** 20 August 2025

**Relevant:** Jervis Bay Territory residents and visitors

**Topic:** Jervis Bay Territory drinking water

## JBT drinking water - PFAS testing results

Testing for August 2025 shows that Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) levels in JBT drinking water remain substantially lower than levels recommended by the recently updated [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#).

The Guidelines are set by the National Health and Medical Research Council. They are regularly updated to make sure they are based on the latest scientific evidence, with new guidelines released on 25 June 2025. The JBT levels remain safe.

On behalf of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, Shoalhaven Water undertakes routine monthly testing for PFAS in JBT's drinking water and engages an independent laboratory, accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities, to do this work.

The drinking water at Wreck Bay and the rest of JBT is sourced from Lake Windemere. The drinking water from Lake Windemere is tested for PFAS at the treatment plant before and after treatment. This water is then supplied by pipeline to the various locations within JBT including Wreck Bay. This monthly testing continues to show drinking water is well within the national guidelines. The health and safety of JBT residents and visitors remains our first priority. We will continue to keep the local community informed on testing results.

	PFOS	PFHxS	PFOA
<b>JBT drinking water</b> June 2025 test results	0.0006 micrograms/litre	<0.0005 micrograms/litre	<0.0005 micrograms/litre
<b>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines</b> Health values for PFAS	0.008 micrograms/litre	0.03 micrograms/litre	0.2 micrograms/litre

\*PFOS=Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, PFHxS=Perfluorohexane Sulfonate, PFOA=Perfluorooctanoic Acid

For general information on PFAS health effects and exposure pathways, contact the Department of Health on 1800 941 180, or see the fact sheet: [enHealth fact sheet on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)

