
Dear Senator Thorpe (and Emma)

I wanted to confirm a response I provided to the Committee yesterday, to question around PFAS treatment in TasWater drinking water treatment. I advised that between one and two thirds of TasWater drinking water treatment plants have processes that can remove PFAS, but I said that I'd check. My answer remains correct, if slighted understated, with more precise detail as follows.

A total of 45 per cent of TasWater drinking water connections have existing processes that can remove PFAS (mostly granulated activated carbon or nanofiltration), and a further 28 per cent can readily support additional processes (powdered activated carbon), if required. A greater proportion of treated water by volume – circa 80 per cent – have existing removal processes, noting that most of Hobart's treated drinking water is supplied by the modern Bryn Estyn plant with activated carbon. Note that PFAS removal efficacy technologies vary by PFAS chain-length, warranting site specific design of PFAS removal treatment processes, in the event this was required.

My thanks again to you and the Committee for the opportunity to respond to questions on this matter of important public interest.

Kind regards

Graham Hawke

Chief Scientist

