

HOUSING AUTHORITY — WATER QUALITY — TJUNTJUNTJARA

**541. Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the daily monitoring of the water quality in each of the six bores in Tjuntjuntjara, which are collected by the community and transported to a lab for testing in Kalgoorlie each week.

- (1) Is that water quality data readily available to the community?
- (2) Is the community notified as soon as possible about changes in water quality at any of the six bores?
- (3) If no to (1) and/or (2), why not?
- (4) Is the water at all six Tjuntjuntjara bores considered potable by Australian standards?
- (5) Will the minister please table the information collected on water quality at Tjuntjuntjara for 2016?
- (6) If no to (5), why not?

**Hon COL HOLT replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The Housing Authority advises that it undertakes daily monitoring of the ultraviolet water treatment system for the amount of chlorine. Water quality for microbiological or chemical parameters is tested on a monthly basis.

- (1) Water quality data is readily available and can be provided to the community upon request.
- (2) Yes. The remote Aboriginal essential services program has procedures in place for water quality reporting and remediation, which ensures that all communities are notified as soon as possible of any changes to water quality in their community.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Tjuntjuntjara's water currently exceeds "Australian Drinking Water Guidelines" values for nitrate for bottle-fed babies under three months of age, resulting in nitrate notices being issued to the community and bottled water being supplied for bottle-fed babies under three months of age. On 3 May 2016, contact was made with the community, which confirmed that bottled water was available. Uranium is above the guideline value of 0.017 in some bores. However, with recent changes in bore management, the water supply—reticulation supply—has been managed so that it is now below the guideline values. The Housing Authority is currently managing a project to supply and install a new reverse osmosis unit in the community, which will treat the community's current water quality issues. The project is currently scheduled for completion in October 2016.
- (5) This information was unable to be collated in time. I will endeavour to provide an answer to the honourable member on Thursday.
- (6) Not applicable.