

Nitrate and uranium levels in drinking water – compliance with guidelines

Summary of information provided by the Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water

(letter dated 11 February 2020)

The Committee asked for nitrate levels for:

- Wiluna, Yalgoo, Leonora, Laverton, Menzies, Cue, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Sandstone (these are monitored by the Water Corporation)
- any other communities (small/remote) where the water is monitored by the Department of Communities which have had readings higher than the safe level for infants, children or adults
- the Goldfields towns that were part of the Western Desert Kidney Health Project, including Kurrawang, Morapoi, Mulga Queen, Mt Margaret and Tjuntjuntjarra

and

- a list of communities with uranium levels higher than the safe drinking water guideline value

Communities		Nitrate		Uranium
		Infant	Adult	
Monitored by Water Corp	Wiluna	✓	✓	✓
	Yalgoo	✓	✓	✓
	Leonora	✓	✓	✓
	Laverton	✓	✓	✓
	Menzies	✓	✓	✓
	Cue	✗	✓	✓
	Meekatharra	✗	✓	✓
	Mount Magnet	✗	✓	✓
	Sandstone	✗	✓	✓
Communities where water is provided by Dept of Communities, where quarterly nitrate notices issued or uranium levels non-compliant	Jameson*	✗	✓	-
	Cosmo Newberry	✓	✓	-
	Patjarr	✓	✓	-
	Blackstone	✗	✓	-
	Tjirrkarli	✓	✓	-
	Warburton*	✗	✓	-
	Wannan	✗	✓	-
	Wingellina	✗	✓	-
	Kunawarritji*	✗	✓	-
	Burringurrah	✗	✓	✓ ✗
	Jigalong	✓	✓	-
	Kutkabubba	✗	✓	-
	Yulga Jinna	✓ (mostly)	✓	-
	Kiwirrkurra*	✓ (mostly)	✓	✓ (mostly)
	Pia Wadjari	-	-	✓ ✗
	Pargurr*	-	-	✓ (mostly)
	Bow River	-	-	✓
Pandanus Park	✗	✓	-	
Part of Western Desert Kidney Health Project	Tjuntjuntjarra	✓	✓	✓
	Mulga Queen	✗	✓	-
	Mount Margaret	✓	✓	-
	Kurrawang	✓	✓	✓
	Morapoi	No data	No data	No data

*Water treatment plants in these communities are due for completion in 2020

✓ compliant with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

✗ not compliant with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

✓ ✗ compliant for around half of the period Jan 2017-Dec 2019