Council's Water Supply Meets Australian Drinking Water Guidelines for PFAS

Council is committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water to the communities Uralla and Bundarra. Our water supply is regularly tested and analysed by independent NATA-accredited laboratories to ensure compliance with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG). We work closely with NSW Health to maintain the highest standards of water quality.

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals used globally since the 1950s in various industrial processes and consumer products, including firefighting foams, pesticides, fertilizers, carpets, paints, non-stick cookware, cosmetics, sunscreens, clothing, and food packaging. While PFAS are not added to drinking water, trace amounts can be present due to environmental contamination from these sources.

In line with our commitment to water safety, Council participated in a PFAS screening program organised by NSW Health. On 19 November 2024, samples were collected from the Kentucky Creek Dam treated water supply and submitted for testing.

We are pleased to report that the test results indicate PFAS levels in all sampled water supplies are well below the current ADWG values. This outcome confirms that our drinking water is safe for consumption and meets national health standards.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) testing

Characteristic	Current ADWG value*	Proposed ADWG value*	Result	Meeting current ADWG value (%)
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	0.560 µg/L	0.2 µg/L	<0.001µg/L	100%
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	Sum of PFOS and PFHxS 0.07 µg/L	0.004 µg/L	<0.001 µg/L	100%
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)		0.03 µg/L	<0.001µg/L	100%
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	No current guideline value	1 µg/L	<0.001µg/L	100%

***Units:** microgram per litre (µg/L), nanogram per litre (ng/L)

We remain dedicated to transparency and will keep the community informed about water quality and any initiatives undertaken to maintain the safety of our drinking water. For more information, please contact Council's Water and Wastewater Services Department.