



# Water Quality and Testing

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### ***How do we know that our water is safe to drink?***

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is committed to ensuring that residents have access to quality drinking water.

The town water supply is treated and tested regularly to meet the requirements set out in the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines for water quality, as prescribed by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011.

Should residents be required to be notified of an issue with the town supply, the WTA will communicate updates via the WTA website, WTA Facebook page, noticeboards and electronic signage posted at key community locations, and any additional means of communications. The WTA works closely with the regulators during any quality issues.

### ***How often does WTA test the water?***

The WTA has implemented a strict water quality testing regime which exceeds the minimum recommendations for testing water quality as set out by the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The WTA tests the water at various locations throughout the town network for chlorine (tested routinely throughout the week) and microbiology (tested twice weekly). These locations cover all suburbs, including Nanum, Rocky Point, Golf Links and Trunding.

### ***How do I read the water testing results?***

WTA posts the latest microbiological test results on its website at [www.weipatownauthority.com.au](http://www.weipatownauthority.com.au)

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines indicate that microbiological tests should read less than one colony forming unit (CFU) of E Coli per 100 millilitres of water (<1.0 CFU/100mL).

The laboratory results will indicate <1 CFU/100mL where the water sample meets the National Health and Medical Research Council's (2011) guidelines.

### ***Who Tests the Water?***

WTA engages suitably qualified personnel to collect samples from the water treatment plant and sample locations in each suburb. Chlorine tests are performed locally. Samples for microbiology testing are sent by courier to an accredited laboratory for independent testing and analysis.

### ***Where does Weipa's Water come from?***

Weipa's water comes from a bore field accessing the shallow aquifer on the Weipa Peninsular.

The township water consists of nine bores feeding into an open dam through to the treatment plant. The water treated by adding lime (calcium hydroxide) into the water between the dam and the elevated tower to neutralise the pH whilst chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) is injected for disinfection purposes. The water then flows onto the town reticulation system for distribution to Rocky Point, Trunding, Nanum and Golf Links.

Evans Landing and Lorim Point water consists of eight bores feeding into a storage tank. From there the water is treated by adding lime (calcium hydroxide) before distribution to Evans Landing and Lorim Point.

### ***How can I be sure that WTA are complying with Regulations?***

The Water Supply Act of 2008 is set up to provide for the safety and reliability of water supply throughout Queensland. This Act requires service providers like WTA to prepare a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan which must meet the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011. This plan is approved and regularly reviewed by the Department of Energy and Water Supply, which acts as the water regulator. WTA is required to adhere to the processes set out in the Drinking Water Quality Management Plan.

### ***How can I get more information regarding drinking water quality in Weipa?***

1. Contact the WTA team on 4030 9400
2. Visit our WTA website at [www.weipatownauthority.com.au](http://www.weipatownauthority.com.au)