

Tarago Public School

Community Update

3 August 2022

Dear staff and parents/carers,

In 2020, following a notification by Transport for NSW that lead contamination was discovered along the rail corridor, the Department of Education engaged an independent hygienist, Greencap Pty Ltd to investigate, and undertake targeted lead sampling and a risk assessment.

Drinking water was tested at five locations across Tarago Public School, including bubblers and staff room taps. The water results in most samples returned analysis results approaching or above the adopted action level. Following this, Greencap advised that bubblers located on the external wall of Block F were to be permanently capped off, and that various flushing methods for other bubblers and taps be carried out. At the time the department decided to take additional precautionary measures including sealing and capping all bubblers and supplying drinking water by bottled water to eliminate any potential risk.

On 15 June 2022, further water investigations were conducted by an independent hygienist, WSP, from internal and external bubblers and taps to assess potential contamination. All locations sampled returned results below the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (below 0.01 milligrams/litre) for lead and copper, indicating no significant aesthetic water quality impact. The independent hygienist, WSP, has advised the water in the bubblers at Tarago Public School is safe for consumption.

Following this advice, the seals have been removed from the school's water bubblers with the exception of the bubblers located on the external wall of Block F. While not required, as a precaution the school will continue to flush all portable water taps and bubblers daily for 3 minutes each morning before students arrive to school. Additionally, the signage at the bubblers on the external wall of Block A, near the administration and years 3-6 classrooms, directing students to let the water run for 30 seconds before each use, will remain in place.

Next steps

The department will resample the water after a period of 6 months in line with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

The health, safety, and well-being of Tarago Public School and the local community is our highest priority and we will continue to keep the community updated.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

For more information contact:

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