



## **NOTICE: Your water is not safe to drink**

The water we supply to your property is not disinfected and is not intended for human consumption. This includes drinking, food preparation, cleaning teeth and activities such as bathing or showering where ingestion may be possible.

You can still use the water for household activities, such as watering gardens, flushing toilets, irrigation and laundry purposes.

### **Who is supplied with non-drinking water?**

Wannon Water supplies non-drinking water to customers who live close to areas where water is harvested and where there is infrastructure such as pipelines. The water supplied directly from these pipes has not yet been disinfected and made safe to drink.

Non-drinking water customers typically live in small rural towns or rural areas remote from population centres.

The water does not necessarily meet the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. There is no protection against disease-causing organisms that may contaminate the water.

### **Untreated water can contain pathogens**

Water that has not been treated can contain pathogens such as bacteria (E-coli, Salmonella and Campylobacter), viruses (Hepatitis A) and protozoa (Cryptosporidium and Giardia).

These micro-organisms are not visible to the naked eye and may be present in water that appears to be clear.

Water contaminated with these micro-organisms can cause severe gastroenteritis.

### **What if I consume the water?**

Drinking untreated water can lead to illnesses such as gastroenteritis and diarrhoea.



You might notice a chlorine smell in your non-drinking water.

The chlorine is added into the system to minimise the growth of weeds and algae, but it does not provide adequate disinfection of pathogens that may contaminate the water.

It does not indicate the water is safe to drink.

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER.**

# Living with an untreated water supply

## What you need to do

- Disconnect non-drinking water supplies to areas which may otherwise encourage ingestion e.g. kitchen taps, drinking fountains, bubble taps.
- Ensure no cross-connections exist between a non-drinking water supply and your drinking water source.
- Advise visitors to your home or business not to ingest the non-drinking water.
- Landlords should notify tenants that non-drinking water is not suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption (extra notices can be obtained from Wannon Water).
- Managers of accommodation facilities should notify their guests that the non-drinking water supply is not suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption (extra notices can be obtained from Wannon Water).
- Customers who provide a water supply to others via syndicates or co-operatives should notify their members that the non-drinking water is not suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption (extra notices can be obtained from Wannon Water).
- Managers of facilities where non-drinking water taps are accessible to the public should erect signs advising that the water is not suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption. Examples of facilities where taps may be accessible

to the public include roadside picnic stops, churches, public halls, schools, sporting venues, public gardens and standpipes.

- The water supply **MUST NOT** be used by a customer/visitor for drinking, food preparation or any other forms of consumption.
- Please contact Wannon Water to obtain stickers stating: *Non-drinking water: NOT suitable for drinking, food preparation or other forms of consumption.*

## What you can use non-drinking water for

- Toilet flushing\*.
- Laundry use\*.
- Garden use (subject to the Permanent Water Saving Measures and any restrictions that may be in force in your area).
- As a water source for stock and domestic animals.

**\* PLEASE NOTE: at times, elevated levels of colour and odour may make it unsuitable for these household uses.**

## Further information

Please contact us on 1300 926 666 between the hours of 8.15am and 5pm Monday to Friday or email us at [info@wannonwater.com.au](mailto:info@wannonwater.com.au)

