

Assessment of Water Quality in Northern Territory Outstations/Homelands

Project

The NT Government Outstations and Homelands Headline Policy Statement includes Criteria for Support regarding the adequate supply of potable water and assistance with the development of management plans. To achieve this, the NT Department of Local Government and Housing (DLGH) has engaged the assistance of the Power and Water Corporation (PWC).

The objectives of the project are:

- 1) To assess the physical, chemical and radiological health risks associated with the water supply sources of approximately 500 outstations; and
- 2) To support the assessment of water supply infrastructure by DLGH and provide advice regarding potential microbiological contamination risks associated with infrastructure, for consideration when developing the capital investment program for the outstation water supply systems.

Guiding Project Delivery

A steering committee will guide the "Outstations/Homelands Physical and Chemical Water Quality Risk Assessment" project.

The steering committee membership comprises:

Member	Job title	Organisation
Chair: Darryl Day	General Manager Remote Operations	Power and Water Corporation
Amy Dysart	Manager Water Quality	Power and Water Corporation
Nadine Riethmuller	Project Manager Outstation Water Quality	Power and Water Corporation
Ian Redmond	Director Indigenous Essential Services Branch	Department of Local Government and Housing
Xavier Schobben	Director Environmental Health	Department of Health and Families
Michael Lawton	Senior Advisor Natural Resource Management	Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport
Hugh Wallace Smith	Coordinator Indigenous Community Water Facilitator Network	North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance

Project Team

PWC has been engaged by DLGH to provide specialist water quality and risk assessment advice based on experience with the larger indigenous communities; and technical support on developing communication/reporting and community engagement processes. The project will coordinate input and resources across relevant government departments and other agencies involved in service delivery to outstations.

Project Methodology

The project is comprised of three stages:

- Desktop Assessment of Outstation Water Quality
Collate existing water quality information and infrastructure reports on outstation water sources and supply systems. Using this information, assess water quality health risks and prioritise outstations based on the likelihood of physical, chemical and radiological water quality posing a concern.
- Collection of Water Quality Data
Collect and analyse water quality samples from outstations identified with the highest likelihood of physical, chemical or radiological water quality characteristics posing a concern, as identified in the desktop assessment.
- Risk Assessment
Using the data collected, verify existing water quality information and identify the areas of greatest concern, taking into consideration the microbiological security of water supply systems.

Project Outcome

A report will be made available to relevant stakeholders by 31 December 2009.

Project Contact

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