

## **WaterNSW response to Supplementary Questions**

**(1) Are current filtration systems in NSW capable of removing PFAS?**

**(2) What would it cost to upgrade all water treatment plants for PFAS removal?**

**(3) Should water utilities be legally required to report PFAS levels?**

**(4) How does Water NSW plan to manage long-term PFAS contamination?**

### **Answers**

(1) WaterNSW primarily supplies raw (untreated) water to customers around NSW. The supply of drinking water and related operation of filtration and other water treatment processes are the responsibility of the various drinking water supply agencies (Local Water Utilities/Councils). Local Water Utilities/Councils are best placed to answer this question.

The one exception is Duckmaloi water treatment plant, which is owned and operated by WaterNSW. It provides treated drinking water to customers of the Fish River Water Supply Scheme (FRWSS) in Central West NSW. WaterNSW currently tests both treated and raw water in the FRWSS monthly for PFAS chemicals. These tests have consistently recorded results below both the current and proposed Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. The Duckmaloi water treatment plant does not have capacity to remove PFAS and an upgrade to provide that capacity has not been costed (as it is not currently a risk to drinking water safety).

(2) As above.

(3) This is not a decision to be made by WaterNSW. WaterNSW takes a transparent approach to the publication of water quality data and has published the results of its monthly PFAS testing on its [publicly available website](#). The NSW Government has recommended that all local water utilities in NSW assess the risk of PFAS and undertake an initial screening test from each drinking water supply system. DCCEE and NSW Health are working to support all regional water utilities to test their drinking water for PFAS - see [PFAS and drinking water - information and updates | NSW Government](#)

(4) WaterNSW is part of a multi-agency response to the risks of PFAS contamination in the Greater Sydney drinking water catchment and will continue to work collaboratively with its partner agencies. WaterNSW is currently conducting an investigation into PFAS contamination in the Blue Mountains, which resulted in the isolation of Medlow and Greaves Creek dams from the system. The outcome of that investigation report will inform WaterNSW's long-term response.