

Question on Notice

No. 298

Asked on 17 March 2020

MR D LAST asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES) –

QUESTION

With reference to Clermont in the Burdekin Electorate currently suffering from water quality issues—

Will the Minister advise of any health issues that may affect residents and visitors as a result of the reduced water quality, including potential effects and any actual effects already reported, as well as the Queensland Government's role in addressing this issue?

ANSWER

Drinking water in Queensland is regulated jointly by the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy, and Queensland Health. All instances where drinking water standards are exceeded by a drinking water service provider must be notified to the Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy.

In the event of a notification of a drinking water incident, Queensland Health, through the relevant Public Health Unit, works with Council and Department of Natural Resources Mines and Energy to ensure risks to public health are managed.

There has been no notification of a water quality incident from Isaac Shire Council regarding the town of Clermont. However, in response to community concerns regarding dirty water, the Queensland Health's Mackay Public Health Unit has met with Council to discuss the issue.

Water quality from the Clermont water treatment plant, and from Council's regular sampling points throughout the reticulation system, has been reported to meet the health standards in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. However, the water may not meet the aesthetic standards, which are not regulated by the state government.

Council has advised that they have identified the cause of the issue as being manganese and iron deposits in certain parts of the reticulation system and they are now implementing a flushing regime in sections of the reticulation system to address the matter.

It is unlikely that there is any significant health risk from manganese and iron in the Clermont drinking water supply.