30 August 2005

NT Government Feeds Contaminated Water to Territorians

The increasing incidence of contamination of Darwin, Palmerston and Jabiru water supplies are indications of poor management by the Northern Territory Government and its essential services corporation, the Power and Water Corporation, the Shadow Minister for Essential Service, Dr Richard Lim, a former medical practitioner, said today.

"Only last week, during Question Time, the Opposition asked the Minister for Infrastructure about issues of E Coli contamination of water supplies at Elliott and Daly Waters, and within days, we are told of water contamination in Darwin, Palmerston and Jabiru," Dr Lim said.

"While I have read that PowerWater has blamed equipment failure for one of the incidents of contamination, the question has to be raised as to how an organism such as E Coli could have entered the water supply in Jabiru.

"E Coli bacteria is found in faeces. So the Government has to tell Territorians how Jabiru’s water supply came to be contaminated with E Coli.

"The contamination of the Darwin and Palmerston water supplies with Naegleria fowleri is more disturbing, knowing that this parasite can cause amoebic meningo-encephalitis.

"And now we learn that Power and Water does not know how the contamination occurred and how long the water has been contaminated. This is beyond belief.

"Obviously, the guarantee that Power and Water tests our potable water regularly cannot be trusted.

"A reliable source within Power & Water has provided information that in Alice Springs, the water infrastructure is now well on 30 years old and decaying, making it a potential health risk for residents.

"While this Government pours GST money into recurrent spending, infrastructure such as our water system is failing."

Ends.

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