



**The Administrator
Australian Territory of Norfolk Island**



Appeal for voluntary water sharing

Following a number of community members reporting a lack of water, we are appealing to those with surplus water to voluntarily share stocks for short-term relief.

Several community members have now had empty tanks for some days and remain on waiting lists for water delivery, which may take a week or longer. This is an unprecedented situation and entirely new circumstances for Norfolk Island.

We are aware of water sharing already occurring between neighbours, friends and family. We are encouraging voluntary donations of water, coordinated through water carters.

Those with water they are unlikely to need within the next six weeks are asked to consider making an amount of water available to those who currently have empty tanks.

Voluntary water sharing is a common response to water stress in regional and remote communities.

If you have water from a tank which you are willing to share with others to contribute to meeting this short-term need, please contact any of the water carters at your earliest opportunity with the amount you can offer.

It is important to note that in this time of water stress, the water carters are under pressure. Community members are encouraged to accurately assess their water supply and, for those in need of water, please only contact water carters if you are in immediate or imminent need of water.

Residents are encouraged to boil any water they receive from an unknown source for 20 minutes. Drinking water is available for purchase from local stores and UV filtered rainwater is available from a local supplier.

The bottled water which was brought in by the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development in December is an emergency stockpile for those properties impacted by the detection of PFAS only. While the investigation into PFAS is continuing, the ongoing needs of those properties are not yet known, so this emergency stock for PFAS response is not currently available for public supply.

Norfolk Island Regional Council advises the small portable desalination plant due to arrive in February is for the runway upgrade project and Council will consider making it available to the community outside of its use for construction activity.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in supporting our community through this testing time.

For more information on the work under way on water emergency prevention, please visit:

<http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/services/emergency-management>

For more information on the CSIRO's Norfolk Island Water Resources Assessment project, please visit: <https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/LWF/Areas/Water/Assessing-water-resources/Norfolk>

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