



**BUSSELTON WATER**

**BUSSELTON WATER**

**Report to the Department of Health**

**for the period**

**1 January to 31 March 2020**

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Submitted to:  
The Advisory Committee for the Purity of Water  
Busselton Water's Website  
CEO, Busselton Water (Mr Chris Elliott)



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## 1.0 Water Provider Information

| Water Provider Contact Details |  |     |              |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|--------------|
| Name of Company                | Busselton Water  |     |              |
| Company Address                | 1 Fairbairn Road, Busselton WA 6280  |     |              |
| Company Phone                  | 08 9781 0500   | Fax | 08 9754 1075 |
| Company Email                  | <a href="mailto:admin@busseltonwater.wa.gov.au">admin@busseltonwater.wa.gov.au</a> |     |              |
| Chief Executive Officer        | Chris Elliott  |     |              |
| DoH Liaison Officer            | Chris Vigus, General Manager Operations  |     |              |

### 1.1 System Information

Busselton Water operates one large interconnected water supply system with four bore sites consisting of eight production bores, supplying three water treatment plants. Busselton Water operates its distribution system as one locality ("Busselton") and has strategically-placed sampling points throughout the distribution system.

Busselton Water's water supply is sourced from bores constructed in the Leederville and Yarragadee aquifers. The raw groundwater has turbidity and total iron concentrations above the drinking water guideline limits but these are readily removed by oxidation, aeration and filtration, and then disinfected at Busselton Water's treatment plants before distribution into the reticulation network. Significant focus and planning for growth is being applied to the establishment of an inland borefield that avoids the impacts of saltwater intrusion.

Busselton Water supplies drinking water to more than 26,000 customers within the Busselton townsite and close environs such as Port Geographe, Siesta Park, Vasse and Wonnerup. As a sought-after tourist destination this figure can rise significantly during weekends and holiday periods. The average daily system demand for the reporting period was 21.5 ML/day.

## 2.0 Performance Summary

### 2.1 Treated Water – Microbiological Water Quality

Microbiological water quality analyses for treated water samples are collected downstream of the chlorinators at the water treatment plants. Compliance limits are summarised in the following table.

Samples were tested for thermotolerant coliforms, *E. coli* and Thermophilic *Naegleria* during the period. No microbial activity in relation to these parameters was detected during the period at any of the sample locations. Busselton Water remains fully compliant with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health in respect to *E. coli* and *N. fowleri*<sup>1</sup>.

| Period                         | <i>Escherichia coli</i><br>( <i>E. Coli</i> ) |                               |                          |                              | Thermophilic <i>Naegleria</i> |          |                              | <i>Naegleria Fowleri</i> <sup>1</sup> |          |                              |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
|                                | No. of Samples                                | No. of Non-conforming Samples | Maximum Individual Value | Rolling 12 Months Compliance | No. of Samples                | Detected | Rolling 12 Months Compliance | No. of Samples                        | Detected | Rolling 12 Months Compliance |
| Jan-20                         | 20  | 0                             | est <1                   | 100%                         | 20                            | 0        | 100%                         | 0                                     | -        | 100%                         |
| Feb-20                         | 20  | 0                             | est <1                   | 100%                         | 20                            | 0        | 100%                         | 0                                     | -        | 100%                         |
| Mar-20                         | 25  | 0                             | est <1                   | 100%                         | 25                            | 0        | 100%                         | 0                                     | -        | 100%                         |
| Total for First Quarter 2020   | 65  | 0                             | -                        | -                            | 65                            | 0        | -                            | 0                                     | -        | -                            |
| First Quarter 2020 Performance | 100%  |                               |                          | -                            | 100%                          |          | -                            | 100%                                  |          | -                            |
| Required Compliance:           | 100%  |                               |                          |                              | 95%                           |          |                              | 100%                                  |          |                              |

**Note 1:** Tests for *Naegleria Fowleri* only required if Thermophilic *Naegleria* is detected.

## 2.2 Distributed Water - Microbiological Water Quality

Microbiological water quality analyses for the seven locations within the distribution system are sampled weekly and are summarised in the following table.

Samples were tested for thermotolerant coliforms, *E. coli* and Thermophilic *Naegleria* during the period. No microbial activity in relation to these parameters was detected during the three months at any of the sample locations. Busselton Water remains fully compliant with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health in respect to *E. coli* and *N. fowleri* <sup>1</sup>.

| Period                         | <i>Escherichia coli</i><br>( <i>E. Coli</i> ) |                               |                          |                              | Thermophilic <i>Naegleria</i> |          |                              | <i>Naegleria Fowleri</i> <sup>1</sup> |          |                              |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|
|                                | No. of Samples                                | No. of Non-conforming Samples | Maximum Individual Value | Rolling 12 Months Compliance | No. of Samples                | Detected | Rolling 12 Months Compliance | No. of Samples                        | Detected | Rolling 12 Months Compliance |
| Jan-20                         | 28  | 0                             | est <1                   | 100%                         | 28                            | 0        | 100%                         | 0                                     | -        | 100%                         |
| Feb-20                         | 28  | 0                             | est <1                   | 100%                         | 28                            | 0        | 100%                         | 0                                     | -        | 100%                         |
| Mar-20                         | 35  | 0                             | est <1                   | 100%                         | 35                            | 0        | 100%                         | 0                                     | -        | 100%                         |
| Total for First Quarter 2020   | 91  | 0                             | -                        | -                            | 91                            | 0        | -                            | 0                                     | -        | -                            |
| First Quarter 2020 Performance | 100%  |                               |                          | -                            | 100%                          |          | -                            | 100%                                  |          | -                            |
| Required Compliance:           | 100%  |                               |                          |                              | 95%                           |          |                              | 100%                                  |          |                              |

**Note 1:** Tests for *Naegleria Fowleri* only required if Thermophilic *Naegleria* is detected.

### 3.0 Microbial Performance

#### 3.1 Microbiological - Exception Notifications

| Microbiological Water Quality Exceptions |                   |                          |                                |                 |                 |              |                |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Locality                                 | Population Served | Date                     | Microbiological Characteristic | MoU Alert Level | Remedial Action | DoH Notified | Close Out Date |
| Busselton                                | >26,000           | 01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020 | Nil                            |                 |                 |              |                |

#### 3.2 Microbiological - Incident Specific Information

| Microbiological Incidents |                  |  |                 |  |
|---------------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Locality                  | Date of Incident | Details of Incident  | MoU Alert Level | Remedial Action  |
| Busselton                 | 16/03/2020       | <p>On 23 March 2020, abnormal drinking water quality laboratory results were received for the sample taken on 16 March 2020 from the assessable sampling point "Hawker Approach, Yalyalup WA 6280".</p> <p>The abnormal results were a high Heterotrophic Plant Count (HPC) and the presence of Total Coliforms. <i>E.coli</i> and Thermotolerant coliforms were reported as below the detection limit. Residual chlorine was in the normal range.</p> | 1               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The event was reported to the Department of Health duty officer by email and telephone on 23 March 2020.</li> <li>The likely cause of the event was identified as a water main break in Causeway Road that occurred about 7:30 am on Sunday 15 March 2020. The damaged main had been isolated for repair until 2:30 pm on that Sunday. Isolation of the main had caused Yalyalup to be supplied at low pressure during repair.</li> <li>Minor ingress of groundwater through the broken Causeway Road pipe during initial closure of isolation valves was judged as possible.</li> <li>Resampling of water quality in Yalyalup demonstrated no presence of HPC or Total Coliforms. Turbidity measurements at Hawker Approach and other locations were found to be in their normal acceptable range before and after the event.</li> <li>The laboratory was asked to confirm the validity of no <i>E.Coli</i> or Thermotolerant coliforms being measured in the presence of high HPC in the Hawker Approach sample. The laboratory confirmed validity of the results.</li> <li>Customer dirty water complaints for the Yalyalup area were reviewed. No such complaints were received.</li> </ul> |

## 4.0 Chemical – Health Related Performance

The results of water samples collected from the operating production bores (raw water) and at the assessable distribution sampling points (distribution water) during the period are summarised in Table 4.2 for health-related guidelines. They show that the water supply is fully compliant with the health-related Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, the operating licence issued by the ERA and the protocols of Busselton Water's Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health.

### 4.1 Chemical – Health Related – Exception Notifications

| Health-Related Chemical Water Quality Exceptions |                   |                          |  |                 |                 |              |                |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Locality   | Population served | Date                     | Health Related Chemical Characteristic | MoU Alert Level | Remedial Action | DoH Notified | Close Out Date |
| Busselton  | >26,000           | 01/01/2020 to 31/03/2020 | NIL                                    |                 |                 |              |                |

### 4.2 Chemical – Health Related - Chart

| Type      | Unit | ADWG Limit (mg/L) | Lab Limit of Reporting (mg/L) | Raw Water (Bores) |                                  |                          | Distribution Water |                                  |                               |                |
|-----------|------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
|           |      |                   |                               | Number Assessed   | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value | Number Assessed    | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value mg/L | Compliance (%) |
| Antimony  | mg/L | 0.003             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Arsenic   | mg/L | 0.01              | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Barium    | mg/L | 2.0               | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | 0.28                          | 100%           |
| Beryllium | mg/L | 0.06              | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Boron     | mg/L | 4.0               | 0.05                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | 0.16                          | 100%           |

| Type                 | Unit | ADWG Limit (mg/L) | Lab Limit of Reporting (mg/L) | Raw Water (Bores) |                                  |                          | Distribution Water |                                  |                               |                |
|----------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
|                      |      |                   |                               | Number Assessed   | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value | Number Assessed    | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value mg/L | Compliance (%) |
| Bromate              | mg/L | 0.02              | 0.005                         | NR                |                                  |                          | NR                 |                                  |                               |                |
| Bromide              | mg/L | -                 | 0.05                          | NR                |                                  |                          | NR                 |                                  |                               |                |
| Bromodichloromethane | mg/L | 0.25*             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 3                  | 3                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Bromoform            | mg/L | 0.25*             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 3                  | 3                                | 0.003                         | 100%           |
| Cadmium              | mg/L | 0.002             | 0.002                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Chlorine (Total)     | mg/L | 5                 |                               | NR                |                                  |                          | 28                 | 28                               | 0.67                          | 100%           |
| Chloroform           | mg/L | 0.25*             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 3                  | 3                                | 0.006                         | 100%           |
| Copper               | mg/L | 2.0               | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | 0.008                         | 100%           |
| Dibromochloromethane | mg/L | 0.25*             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 3                  | 3                                | 0.001                         | 100%           |
| Fluoride             | mg/L | 1.5               | 0.1                           | NR                |                                  |                          | 21                 | 21                               | 0.6                           | 100%           |
| Lanthanum            | mg/L | 0.002             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | NR                 |                                  |                               |                |
| Lead                 | mg/L | 0.01              | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Manganese (Soluble)  | mg/L | 0.1               | 0.01                          | 22                | 22                               | 0.07                     | 21                 | 21                               | ND                            | 100%           |
| Manganese (Total)    | mg/L | 0.1               | 0.01                          | 22                | 22                               | 0.08                     | 21                 | 21                               | ND                            | 100%           |
| Mercury              | mg/L | 0.001             | 0.0002                        | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Molybdenum           | mg/L | 0.05              | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Nickel               | mg/L | 0.02              | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Nitrate              | mg/L | 50                | 0.05                          | 8                 | 8                                | ND                       | NR                 |                                  |                               |                |
| Nitrite              | mg/L | 3                 | 0.05                          | 8                 | 8                                | ND                       | NR                 |                                  |                               |                |



| Type                  | Unit | ADWG Limit (mg/L) | Lab Limit of Reporting (mg/L) | Raw Water (Bores) |                                  |                          | Distribution Water |                                  |                               |                |
|-----------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
|                       |      |                   |                               | Number Assessed   | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value | Number Assessed    | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value mg/L | Compliance (%) |
| Selenium              | mg/L | 0.01              | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Silver                | mg/L | 0.1               | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |
| Total Trihalomethanes | mg/L | 0.25*             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 3                  | 3                                | 0.010                         | 100%           |
| Uranium               | mg/L | 0.017             | 0.001                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                            | 100%           |

**Note 1** Chlorine Total is a Busselton Water in-house test. All others are NATA accredited test results. The operating target for residual chlorine in the reticulation system is 0.4 – 0.6 mg/L. Total chlorine levels will be higher than residual levels.

**Note 2** \* The concentration of trihalomethanes, either individually or in total, in drinking water should not exceed 0.25 mg/L

**Note 3** Busselton Water does not add fluoride to the water. The naturally occurring fluoride levels vary from bore to bore. The maximum value shown is not indicative of the level throughout the Busselton water supply. Fluoride levels in the drinking water vary with location and time and can be between 0.03 and 0.6 mg/L.

| ADWG  | Australian Drinking Water Guidelines |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Bq/L  | Becquerel per litre                  |
| CFU   | colony forming units                 |
| HU    | Hazen Units                          |
| mg/L  | milligrams per litre                 |
| NA    | Not Applicable                       |
| ND    | Not Detected                         |
| NR    | Not Required                         |
| NTU   | Nephelometric Turbidity Units        |
| pH    | Acidity/basicity                     |
| uS/cm | Micro siemens per centimetre         |

## 5.0 Physical and Chemical – Aesthetic Performance

The results of water samples collected from the operating production bores (i.e. raw water) and at the assessable distribution sampling points (i.e. distribution water) during the period are summarised in Table 5.1 for aesthetic related guidelines. The treatment process reduces colour and iron content to below those levels specified in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG).

### 5.1 Physical and Chemical - Aesthetic – Chart

| Type                                  | Unit  | ADWG Limit (mg/L) | Lab Limit of Reporting (mg/L) | Raw Water (Bores) |                                  |                          | Distribution Water |                                  |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
|                                       |       |                   |                               | Number Assessed   | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value | Number Assessed    | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value (mg/L) | Compliance (%) |
| Alkalinity (Bicarbonate)              | mg/L  | -                 | 5                             | 8                 | 8                                | 150                      | 4                  | 4                                | 110                             | 100%           |
| Alkalinity (Carbonate)                | mg/L  | -                 | 5                             | 8                 | 8                                | ND                       | 4                  | 4                                | ND                              | 100%           |
| Alkalinity (Hydroxide)                | mg/L  | -                 | 5                             | 8                 | 8                                | ND                       | 4                  | 4                                | ND                              | 100%           |
| Alkalinity (Total)                    | mg/L  | -                 | 5                             | 8                 | 8                                | 150                      | 4                  | 4                                | 110                             | 100%           |
| Aluminium (Soluble)                   | mg/L  | 0.2               | 0.1                           | 8                 | 8                                | ND                       | 4                  | 4                                | ND                              | 100%           |
| Aluminium (Total)                     | mg/L  | 0.2               | 0.1                           | 8                 | 8                                | ND                       | 4                  | 4                                | ND                              | 100%           |
| Ammonia                               | mg/L  | 0.5               | 0.005                         | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                              | 100%           |
| Calcium                               | mg/L  | -                 | 0.2                           | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | 27                              | 100%           |
| Chloride                              | mg/L  | 250               | 5                             | 8                 | 8                                | 110                      | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Colour True                           | HU    | 15                | 5                             | 22                | 22                               | ND                       | 21                 | 21                               | ND                              | 100%           |
| Electrical Conductivity               | uS/cm | -                 | 10                            | 22                | 22                               | 810                      | 21                 | 21                               | 680                             | 100%           |
| Filterable Reactive Phosphorus        | mg/L  | -                 | 0.01                          | 8                 | 8                                | 0.02                     | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Filterable Reactive Phosphorus as PO4 | mg/L  | -                 | 0.05                          | 8                 | 8                                | 0.06                     | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Hardness (as CaCO3)                   | mg/L  | 200               | 5                             | 8                 | 8                                | 140                      | 4                  | 4                                | 110                             | 100%           |
| Iron (Soluble)                        | mg/L  | 0.3               | 0.01                          | 22                | 21                               | 3.3                      | 21                 | 21                               | ND                              | 100%           |
| Iron (Total)                          | mg/L  | 0.3               | 0.01                          | 22                | 6                                | 5.8                      | 21                 | 21                               | 0.04                            | 100%           |
| Magnesium                             | mg/L  | -                 | 0.1                           | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | 14                              | 100%           |
| pH                                    | pH    | 6.5-8.5           |                               | 23                | 23                               | 8.0                      | 28                 | 28                               | 7.8                             | 100%           |

| Type                                 | Unit | ADWG Limit (mg/L) | Lab Limit of Reporting (mg/L) | Raw Water (Bores) |                                  |                          | Distribution Water |                                  |                                 |                |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
|                                      |      |                   |                               | Number Assessed   | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value | Number Assessed    | Number Complying with ADWG Limit | Maximum Individual Value (mg/L) | Compliance (%) |
| Salinity (as Total Dissolved Solids) | mg/L | 500               | 5                             | 22                | 22                               | 390                      | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Silica                               | mg/L | 80                | 0.1                           | 7                 | 7                                | 14                       | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Sodium                               | mg/L | 180               | 0.1                           | 7                 | 7                                | 87                       | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Sulphate                             | mg/L | 250               | 1                             | 7                 | 7                                | 17                       | NR                 |                                  |                                 |                |
| Total Hardness by Calculation        | mg/L | 200               | 5                             | 7                 | 7                                | 140                      | 4                  | 4                                | 110                             | 100%           |
| Turbidity                            | NTU  | 5                 | NR                            | 22                | 22                               | 2.29                     | 28                 | 28                               | 0.20                            | 100%           |
| Zinc                                 | mg/L | -                 | 0.01                          | NR                |                                  |                          | 4                  | 4                                | ND                              | 100%           |

**Note 1:** pH and Turbidity are Busselton Water in-house tests. All others are NATA accredited test results.

|       |                                      |
|-------|--------------------------------------|
| ADWG  | Australian Drinking Water Guidelines |
| Bq/L  | Becquerel per litre                  |
| CFU   | colony forming units                 |
| HU    | Hazen Units                          |
| mg/L  | milligrams per litre                 |
| NA    | Not Applicable                       |
| ND    | Not Detected                         |
| NR    | Not Required                         |
| NTU   | Nephelometric Turbidity Units        |
| pH    | Acidity/basicity                     |
| uS/cm | Micro siemens per centimetre         |

## 6.0 Radiological Performance

### 6.1 Radiological – Exception Notifications

| Radiological Water Quality Exceptions |                   |                                |                             |                 |                 |              |                |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Locality                              | Population served | Date                           | Radiological Characteristic | MoU Alert Level | Remedial Action | DoH Notified | Close Out Date |
| Busselton                             | >26,000           | 01/01/2020<br>to<br>31/03/2020 | NIL                         |                 |                 |              |                |

### 6.2 Radiological Performance

Radiological Performance is tested annually in April.

## 7.0 Planned Sample Summary (Quarter Ending 31 March 2020)

| Locality  | Microbiological |       |         | Physical and Chemical |       |         | Radiological |       |         | Fluoride |       |         |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|---------|-----------------------|-------|---------|--------------|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|
|           | Planned         | Taken | % Taken | Planned               | Taken | % Taken | Planned      | Taken | % Taken | Planned  | Taken | % Taken |
| Busselton | 156             | 156   | 100%    | 652                   | 652   | 100%    | Nil          | Nil   | N/A     | 21       | 21    | 100%    |

**Note 1** Chemical testing totals shown in Table 7.0 relate to scheduled NATA and in-house sampling undertaken in accordance with Busselton Water's Water Quality Monitoring Program, which has been endorsed by the Department of Health.

## 7.1 Planned Sample Exceptions

| Planned Sample Exceptions |  |                      |                          |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Locality                  | Characteristic<br>(Microbiological/<br>Physical and Chemical/<br>Radiological) | Number of<br>Samples | Reason for missed sample |
| Busselton                 |  | Nil                  |                          |

## 8.0 General Notes / Other News

Nil.