

Estimates Committee 2012
Questions Taken On Notice

(12/06/2012 to 21/06/2012)

Date: 19/06/2012

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Water quality and Park closures

From: Mr Peter Chandler to Mr Karl Hampton
Parks and Wildlife

Question: **7-1**
Minister, in regard to the Berry Springs park closures, what are the water quality results for the park?

Answer:
Answered On: 19/07/2012

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Date: 19 June 2012
Output: Protected Areas and Conservation
Sub Output: Parks Visitor Management Programs

Subject: Water quality results for Berry Springs

From: Minister Hampton To: Member for Brennan

Department: Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

Number: 7.01

Question: Regarding Berry Springs closure. What are the water quality results.

Answer:

Parks and Wildlife follows the NT Department of Health (DoH) Guidance Notes for Recreational Water Quality in the Northern Territory July 2011, which in turn are based on the National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water 2008.

Routine water quality testing occurs on a monthly basis and this becomes fortnightly then daily if trigger levels indicate increased risk. When water quality reaches an unacceptable level of risk ie once two consecutive samples within 48 hours indicate 500+ enterococci / 100ml, Berry Springs is closed to swimming.

Berry Springs was closed on 29 October 2011, following tests which yielded 500+ enterococci in four sample sites (e.g. 1553 enterococci/100ml in main pool) and reopened on 5 November 2011. They were closed again on 11 November 2011 after three of four sample sites exceeded the 500+ threshold (e.g. 2142 enterococci/100ml in main pool) and remained closed for the 2011/12 Wet season.

Berry Springs was reopened for swimming on 19 May 2012 and the water quality results on 30 May 2012 indicate the sites are safe for swimming (e.g. 82 enterococci/100ml in main pool).