

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**

**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Mr Burgoyne to the Minister for Essential Services:

**Burst Water Pipes - Moulden**

Recent concerns have been raised about the danger posed to residents from drinking water that appears to have debris in it from damaged underground water pipes.

This is especially prevalent in the suburb of Moulden.

**1. Are there any risks to residents from drinking what appears to be contaminated water?**

When there is a water main break or leak the network still maintains enough pressure to stop any contamination entering the pipes. When a leak or break is repaired the network is isolated by closing valves. Before the repaired section is placed back into service it is flushed with potable water from the network which has residual chlorine to disinfect any bacteria that may not have been flushed out. On rare occasions, small amounts of dirt/soil may remain in the pipe, causing discolouration for a short time. It is recommended that the resident flush their tap until the water is clear before drinking.

**2. What is the Power and Water Corporation doing to ensure further water pipes do not burst in this area?**

Power and Water is installing 'pressure reducing valves' into the pipe network to manage and reduce the water pressure in the higher pressure areas of the network, where most of the main breaks have occurred.

**3. Are the underground water pipes in Moulden made from asbestos?**

Consistent with industry standard at the time they were installed, the underground water pipes in Moulden are predominantly asbestos cement pipe with some PVC pipe. Evidence shows that asbestos in water supply is not hazardous to health, as outlined in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011).

**4. What material is being used to replace burst water mains?**

PVC pipe is the material being used to replace burst water mains.

**5. Have residents been provided bottled water to deal with loss of water?**

No.

- 6. Have any residents been provided compensation due to the lack of supply of drinking water once the period exceeds 24 hours?**

There has not been any instances of drinking water supply being interrupted for more than 24 hours.

- 7. What is the longest period of time a resident in Moulden has been without water due to a water main leak?**

The longest outage time for the recent main breaks in Moulden occurred at 24 Gumnut Way for 6.5 hours on 21 October 2023.