



**Shane Rattenbury MLA**

Attorney-General

Minister for Consumer Affairs

Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

Minister for Gaming

Member for Kurrajong

Our ref: 24/61382

The Hon Bob Katter MP

Member for Kennedy

[bob.katter.map@aph.gov.au](mailto:bob.katter.map@aph.gov.au)

Dear Mr Katter

I refer to the email from your Chief of Staff dated 12 June 2024 about the quality of the drinking water in Canberra and apologise for the delay in responding.

Without specific information about the nature of your concern, it may relate to recent media articles regarding the presence of potentially carcinogenic compounds, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in drinking water across Australia, including Canberra.

The study mentioned in the Sydney Morning Herald article was done as part of an independent research project at the University of Queensland in 2011. Neither the ACT Government nor ICON Water took part in, or were made aware of, the 2011 study. The source of the perfluorinated compounds found in the Canberra samples cannot be determined from the study. We cannot know if they were in the water being supplied, the result of onsite contamination (only present at the location) or contamination during the sampling, preparation or analysis. However, the concentrations of perfluorinated compounds provided for the Canberra samples (0.5-1.84 nanograms per litre (ng/L or parts per trillion)) were well below the 70ng/l limit in the Australian Drinking water Guidelines as well as the more stringent USA EPA limit of 4ng/l mentioned in the article. Furthermore, Icon Water has annually tested for these compounds since 2016 and there have not been any detections in Canberra's source water or treated supply.

Canberra has high drinking water quality due to how we manage the Cotter River catchment, which is Canberra's primary water source. The lack of industry in the Cotter River catchment ensures that harmful compounds are not a significant risk to Canberra's water supply. Further information about Canberra's water quality is available at [iconwater.com.au](http://iconwater.com.au).

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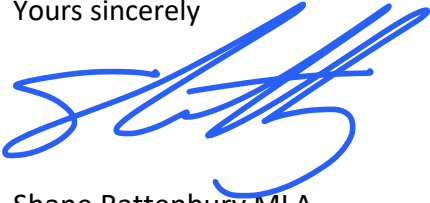
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Thank you for your interest in the quality of Canberra's water quality. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SR', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Shane Rattenbury MLA

25/8/24