



At the Community Walk-in Session held on 12 April 2017, Defence announced it will fund rainwater tanks for eligible property owners in Katherine. At the 29 June 2017 Community Walk-in Session, Defence announced it has commenced the process and intends to have rainwater tanks installed before the 2017 'Wet Season'.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to eligible property owners who would like to have rainwater tanks installed as a result of PFAS contamination of drinking water sourced from existing ground (bore) water sources.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration property owners will meet the following criteria:

- be located inside the Investigation Area; and
- do not have a town water connection; and
- rely on the use of a bore water with a water test result that is above the recommended PFAS Health Based Guidance Value (HBGV) for drinking water; and/or
- source drinking water from a rainwater tank that contains, or has in the past contained, bore water which has a PFAS test result above the HBGV for drinking water

Tank Guidance

Defence will pay for, or reimburse, eligible property owners for a rainwater tank that meets the following criteria:

- must be of an appropriate size (a Defence representative will discuss individual circumstances with property owners using an industry-standard catchment and usage calculator that will assist in this determination);
- must be an above-ground tank;
- must be designated as supporting domestic use only;
- must be a poly, or poly-lined steel tank (concrete tanks not permitted);
- must be fitted with a 'first-flush' system;
- must be fitted with bird/vermin/mosquito protection;

- may contain its own catchment area guttering if required;
- must be supplied and installed in accordance with enHealth Guidance on the use of rainwater tanks and any other NT Government or Katherine Council requirements. Guidance is found at enHealth ([https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/0D71DB86E9DA7CF1CA257BF0001CBF2F/\\$File/enhealth-raitank.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/0D71DB86E9DA7CF1CA257BF0001CBF2F/$File/enhealth-raitank.pdf)) and NT Government (<https://nt.gov.au/environment/water/rainwater-tanks>);
- installation must meet all relevant Australian standards and be undertaken by licensed/qualified tradespeople; and
- installation must comply with any relevant council regulations and, if required, be certified.

Options

- If the land available is not suitable for one large tank, other options may be considered, such as multiple smaller tanks.
- Owners will have several options for installation of tanks:
 - purchase themselves and seek reimbursement from Defence,
 - seek quotes from supplier which are passed to Defence for purchase action, and
 - Defence will source and install tanks on the owner's behalf.
- If the owner chooses to purchase or seek quotes, Defence reserves the right to request another quotation if the initial quotation is not considered value for money.
- Defence may repair existing tanks and plumbing (with leaks, reconnecting domestic use pipes, etc.) rather than replacing them where it represents value for money to do so.
- Defence will consider providing additional tanks to meet drinking water requirements if the owner wishes to retain existing tanks for bore water use. This will include altering existing plumbing to





remove existing tanks from domestic use plumbing.

Support for associated expenses

A rainwater tank is only one component required to capture, store and utilise rainwater in a domestic setting. In addition to the rainwater tank, Defence will also fund the following expenses (where required):

- costs associated with installation;
- an appropriate footing or slab for the tank as per tank manufacturer recommendations and warranties;
- installation of guttering on the dwelling and/or shed to ensure the property has sufficient catchment to meet usage requirements;
- testing of the catchment area surface (if required) to ensure the surface is safe for water collection. Defence will consider funding reasonable steps to make improvements to an unsuitable roof surface on a case by case basis;
- associated plumbing from guttering to tank and from tank to house (no plumbing associated with non-domestic water use will be fitted, however altering existing plumbing to ensure domestic use only will be considered);
- altering or cleaning of existing plumbing to ensure drinking water is below the HBGV for drinking water;
- cleaning (where possible) of existing tanks that have previously contained bore water to ensure they are safe for ongoing use. Where cleaning is not possible, Defence will replace the tank;
- provision of inline filters for rainwater tanks on request;
- associated electrical works related to pumps as per manufacturer recommendations. This may include provision and installation of new / additional pumps where required;
- filling of the rainwater tank (where required) with potable water. This will be offered upon installation; and
- testing of the tank water to advise on the water quality as per approved drinking water quality guidelines after approximately 12 months post

installation, with results provided to the property owner.

Defence will **not** include in its support to property owners:

- any costs associated with necessary ongoing maintenance of a tank and its supporting infrastructure, once the tank is installed and fully operational.

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