

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATED UNION OF LOCOMOTIVE EMPLOYEES

Circular: 42/19

Ref: Contaminated Water

08/03/2019



Lead and Nickel Contaminated Drinking Water at Woombye and Elimbah Stabling Yards

Dear members,

We have received a report from Queensland Rail demonstrating that the lead and nickel levels in the water at Woombye and Elimbah Station yards are well in excess of safe levels. We have received no information in relation to how long our members have been exposed to these levels and, though the company have been well aware of the lead and nickel levels for at least one month it has refused to provide us with the report until the ETU lodged a work health and safety notice and we threatened the business with disputation and the involvement of the Work Health and Safety Queensland. The company have not advised us of the length of time our members have been exposed to the lead and nickel levels, the report we have at hand was issued on 18 February 2019 but we have concerns that this has been an ongoing issue for some time.

We are extremely disappointed that it took the threat of disputation to get QR to provide information about a serious risk to your health and safety and that the business did not notify that you should get health checks. If you have been exposed to the drinking water at Elimbah or Woombye we advise you seek advice from your GP. You can contact our office if you would like information in relation to the levels of lead and Nickel that were identified.

You can contact us about this issue by email at statesecretary@afule.org.au or by telephone on **3844 9163**.

In Solidarity,

Michael McKitrick
AFULE State Secretary

Traincrew representing Traincrew