



23 April 2021

GHD ref: 12516828

Dear Resident / Landowner

**PFAS Investigation at the CFS Brukunga State Training Centre and Dawesley Creek
Invitation to Community Information Session**

Date: Wednesday, 19 May 2021

Time: 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: CFS Brukunga State Training Centre, Pyrites Road, Brukunga, SA

The South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) is undertaking environmental investigations to assess the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) impacts identified in the groundwater and surface water in the vicinity of the CFS Brukunga State Training Centre and Dawesley Creek. The aim of the assessments is also to assess any potential risks to human health and the environment from PFAS contamination arising from historical use of PFAS containing fire-fighting foams at the CFS site.

South Australia was the first state to ban the use of fire-fighting foams containing PFAS, with the ban coming into effect on 30 January 2020 after a two-year transition period. The State Training Centre has not used large quantities of fire-fighting foams with PFAS since 2001, when their use was restricted to portable fire extinguishers only.

The CFS has engaged environmental consultants GHD to undertake groundwater and surface water monitoring to assess on-site and off-site PFAS contamination. This work was undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1993* under the regulation of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and was overseen by an independent Site Contamination Auditor, accredited by the EPA (Dr Ruth Keogh).

The CFS intends to provide ongoing updates to the community. On 19 May 2021 the CFS will be holding a community drop-in information session at the State Training Centre and providing light refreshments. This session format will provide flexibility around various work schedules for interested members of the community to come, ask questions, and be provided with information. The question-and-answer one-on-one conversation session will outline actions taken to date, issues identified and steps to be taken in the future. This will be an opportunity for the community to talk to representatives of CFS staff, SA EPA, Council, Health SA, GHD and the auditor. In the meantime, if you would like more information there is a Fact Sheet on the CFS website about PFAS (www.cfs.sa.gov.au/pfas).

The results of the investigations completed to date indicate that PFAS compounds have been identified:

- in groundwater beneath and in the vicinity of the CFS State Training Centre, limited to the Brukunga Pyrites Mine area
- in surface water of Dawesley Creek extending approximately 37.4 km downstream from the CFS State Training Centre beyond the South Eastern Freeway and beyond Jaensch Road in Hartley (between Callington Road and North Bremer Road), and have not yet been delineated - it is noted

that Nairne Creek, Bremer River and Mt Barker Creek were also identified to be contributing to PFAS in surface waters

- in sediment within Dawesley Creek extending approximately 21.6 km downstream from the CFS site and 1.9 km downstream of the South Eastern Freeway.

Consistent with our letter to the residents dated September 2020, the following advice is provided:

As a precaution, given the identified presence of PFAS in Dawesley Creek, landowners and occupants of, and visitors to, properties located within the vicinity of Dawesley Creek are advised not to use surface water in Dawesley Creek. This recommendation is consistent with SA Health advice that surface water from ephemeral creeks should not be used for drinking water without prior treatment. The broader community are also, as a precaution, advised to avoid contact with the Dawesley Creek water and sediment until further notice.

Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) advise that livestock owners can find further information in the SAFEMEAT factsheet on PFAS, available at <https://www.pfas.gov.au/audience/community-member>.

For questions regarding environmental investigations, please contact the GHD Project Team on 1800 325 110. (Calls will be responded to during business hours, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Any calls received outside of business hours will be responded to on the next business day).

Further information can be found at the CFS website: https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about_cfs/pfas.jsp.

For more information on PFAS please visit the Department of Health website: health.gov.au/pfas or the SA EPA website https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/perfluorinated-compounds.

Additional information can also be found on the SA Health website:

Surface and bore water use:

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/public+health/water+quality/bore+water/bore+water>

PFAS:

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/chemicals+and+contaminants/pfas/per-+and+poly-fluoroalkyl+substances+pfas>

If you have any questions, please contact us on 8398 9968 or email: brenton.eden@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

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