



28 July 2020

GHD ref: 12516828

Dear Resident / Landowner

Groundwater and surface water in the vicinity of the CFS Brukunga State Training Centre and Dawesley Creek – test results and water use survey

The South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) is undertaking environmental assessments to determine whether the historical use of firefighting foam that contained per- and poly-fluoro alkyl substances ('PFAS') has impacted the groundwater and surface water in the vicinity of the CFS Brukunga State Training Centre and Dawesley Creek.

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. 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; and
- in surface water and sediment of Dawesley Creek extending south from the CFS State Training Centre to the South Eastern Freeway.

Further investigations of surface water in Dawesley Creek south of the South Eastern Freeway are underway to assess the extent of PFAS contamination further downstream.

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 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>.

As part of these investigations a survey to determine the use of, and interaction with, ground and surface water is being undertaken. **We will be door-knocking residents on Wednesday and Thursday 29-30 July 2020 between 7:30 AM and 6:00 PM.** If you are unavailable during these times, we will leave a survey for you to please complete and return in the provided postage paid envelope **by 28 August 2020.**

The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and your contact details will remain confidential.

The CFS will update you as this matter progresses. All environmental investigations will be undertaken in accordance with the *Environmental Protection Act 1993* under the regulation of the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and will be overseen by an independent Site Contamination Auditor, accredited by the EPA (Dr Ruth Keogh).

For questions and assistance regarding the survey and 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).

Additional information about CFS investigation and the survey are attached to this letter.

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>.

PFAS:

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

SafeMeat website:

<https://www.safemeat.com.au/>

Yours sincerely

GHD



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