

Background to the project

In 2016, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) commenced environmental investigations to understand the nature and extent of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) presence on and near the FRNSW training facility (the site) located at Deniliquin airport. This included surface water and drainage lines that leave the site.

The investigations are a part of a review of a number of FRNSW sites across NSW where legacy aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) containing PFAS have been stored and used during fire-fighting training exercises, as is the case of this site. FRNSW is undertaking these investigations to assess potential risks to human and ecological health, including identifying pathways through which people may be exposed to these chemicals. This factsheet summarises investigations completed to date, as well as the next steps in the investigation process.



FRNSW Albion Park Training Site (shaded in yellow), and surrounding community

Previous Investigations

FRNSW has engaged GHD since 2016 to undertake investigations at the site as summarised below;

Preliminary Investigation, April 2017

The Preliminary Investigation of the site was completed in August 2016 and included a review of site history for AFFF use and identification of potential sources of PFAS.

Environmental Site Assessment, April 2017

An Environmental Assessment of the Albion Park site and surrounding area was completed in April 2017 and included onsite and offsite sampling and laboratory analysis of groundwater, surface water, soils and sediments to further understand the pathways for potential migration of PFAS from the site.

Environmental Site Assessment, October 2017

A more detailed Environmental Assessment of the Albion Park site and surrounding area was completed in October 2017 with additional onsite and offsite sampling being conducted to allow further understanding of the pathways for potential migration of PFAS from the site.

The FRNSW Preliminary Investigation into the presence of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances

Albion Park PFAS Management Options Assessment, December 2017

In December 2017, a PFAS Management Options Assessment was prepared to provide a better understanding of the potential management options to address onsite and offsite impacts in soil, groundwater and surface water from the use of legacy firefighting foam at the site.



Lake Illawarra Biota Sampling, August 2018

Biological sampling of aquatic biota was conducted in August 2018 following minor detections of PFAS in sediments and surface water along Albion Creek and in the southern boundary of Koono Bay. Based on the findings of these works, a more detailed site-specific risk assessment for off-site users was not considered required by the NSW EPA.

Site Improvement Plan, February 2019

A Site Improvement Plan was developed to address the management of contamination issues associated with the presence of PFAS at the Albion Park training facility and its main objectives were to: provide a strategy to manage or mitigate the potential risks posed by the presence of PFAS contamination remaining within the sediments and water in the on-site retention basin adjacent to the former fire training area; and, provide recommendations to manage potential long term risk posed by residual PFAS contamination remaining at the site following completion of the remediation (if any) and detail ongoing monitoring requirements.

Project update – July 2019

FRNSW is currently taking steps to engage a NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) accredited Site Auditor to provide independent technical review of the proposed additional investigations to be conducted at the site, with this phase of works expected to commence during Q1 of 2020.

Further information

FRNSW is responding proactively to this matter and is working with state and local authorities in the conduct of its investigations.

Previous fact sheets for this site and copies of previous reports are available on the Albion Park PFAS Investigation website:

<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9175>

For further information or enquiries, please refer to the following contacts:

Media

Media enquiries should be directed to the FRNSW media unit on (02) 9265 2907 or email media@fire.nsw.gov.au

NSW Environment Protection Authority

Further information on PFAS and the NSW EPA PFAS investigation program can be found on the EPA website at

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Mediainformation/pfasinvestigation.htm.

If you would like to talk to the NSW EPA please call the Environment Line on 131 555 or email info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Contact the Project Team

For more information or to provide feedback please contact the FRNSW PFAS Project Team:



1800 316 663



www.fire.nsw.gov.au/pfas



pfasinvestigation@fire.nsw.gov



Fire & Rescue NSW
PFAS Environmental Investigation
Project Team
PO Box A249
Sydney South
NSW 1232