

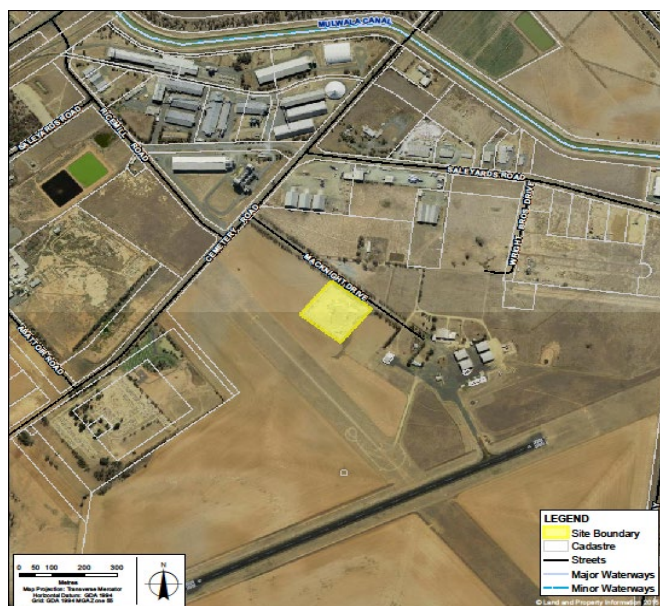
Deniliquin Program Update Factsheet

Project background

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 Deniliquin 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 Site Investigation and Sampling & Analysis Quality Plan, August 2016

The preliminary investigation of the site was completed in August 2016. This included a review of site history, use of AFFF, identification of potential sources of PFAS, and identification of potential receptors. This phase also included development of a sampling and analysis quality plan (SAQP) to inform additional investigations.

Environmental Site Assessment – PFAS, April 2017

An environmental assessment of the site and surrounding area was completed in April 2017. This included on- and offsite sampling and laboratory analysis of groundwater, surface water, soils and sediments to characterise the potential risk to human and environmental health.

Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment - PFAS, October 2017

A more detailed environmental assessment of the site and surrounding area was completed in October 2017, with additional on- and offsite sampling being conducted to better understand pathways for potential migration of PFAS from the site.

A community meeting and information session was held on 23 May 2017, and fact sheets were distributed within the community. During this phase, FRNSW asked 13 landowners surrounding the site to assist with the investigation by completing a water use survey identifying how local water was used.



Deniliquin Training Facility, PFAS Management Options Assessment, December 2017

A management options assessment was prepared in December 2017 to provide a better understanding of the options for managing on- and offsite impacts in soil, groundwater and surface water from the use of legacy firefighting foam at the site.

Project Update – June 2019

The objective of this phase of work is to address data gaps identified in the previous investigation phases. These will be addressed through collection of additional groundwater, surface water, and sediment samples from the vicinity of the site.

An additional water use survey of landowners near the site will also be undertaken to update FRNSW's understanding of water and land use in the area. The analytical and survey results will update and refine our understanding of potential sources and receptors for the area.

Next steps

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 Q3 of 2019.

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 Deniliquin PFAS Investigation website:

<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9176>.

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



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