



Largs North residential PFAS update



How can I be exposed to PFAS?

If you have not worked with PFAS or visited a contaminated site, you can be exposed to PFAS through the air, indoor dust, food, water and various products. For most people, food is expected to be the primary source of exposure to these chemicals.

What are the health impacts of PFAS?

As mentioned, local garden produce testing in your residential area indicates there are no concerns about exposure to PFAS through consumption of garden produce in your neighbourhood area of Largs North, and SA Health advises people in your neighbourhood not to use groundwater (bore water) for any purpose.

Regarding PFAS, the [National Expert Health Panel for PFAS](#) found that although the scientific evidence about humans being exposed to PFAS is minimal, there are reviews and scientific research that have provided consistent reports that several health effects may be linked to PFAS. Further information can be found on the www.sahealth.sa.gov.au – and enter the search term 'PFAS'.

How did PFAS end up in groundwater in my neighbourhood?

Historically, the MFS used limited volumes of diluted firefighting foam containing PFAS at the Largs North Fire Station as part of testing firefighting appliances. PFAS foam has not been used by the MFS since 2016. PFAS is an issue impacting groundwater in some areas on the Le Fevre Peninsula due to historical use by a variety of organisations and industries.

Where can I find more information?

MFS

Visit the MFS website at www.mfs.sa.gov.au to access further information about PFAS.

SA Health:

Visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au – and enter the search term 'PFAS'.

EPA:

www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/perfluorinated-compounds

EPA information regarding the Le Fevre Peninsula:
<https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>

Who can I contact?

SA Health's Health Protection & Licensing Service
Phone: (08) 8226 7100

MFS – Email: mfspfas@sa.gov.au
Phone: 1800 325 110

EPA – Email: epasitecontam@epa.sa.gov.au
Phone: (08) 8204 2004

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13 October 2021



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In 2019, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) informed residents in a Largs North neighbourhood bordered by Willochra St, Riverina St, Paluma St and Victoria Rd that elevated PFAS levels had been found in groundwater underneath the local fire station.

The MFS is seeking to update people living within the identified residential area of the latest information about PFAS and groundwater in the residential area via a letter and map that accompany this brochure. Residents are also able to attend a community forum in October.

Community Forum

The MFS will be hosting a community forum on **Wednesday, 27 October 2021 from 2.00 pm until 7.00 pm** at Largs North Fire Station for local residents. MFS, EPA, SA Health and GHD representatives will be present for the community to ask questions.

Residents are not required to attend for the whole time and can choose to attend at a time that suits them.

What are the PFAS levels in the groundwater in my neighbourhood?

Please see the attached map detailing PFAS levels in groundwater in the local neighbourhood and within the grounds of the Largs North Fire Station.

What do the PFAS levels in groundwater in my neighbourhood mean?

The map provided shows that PFAS levels in groundwater in the identified residential neighbourhood are a mixture of the following:

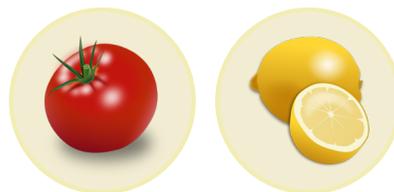
- Not detected or below drinking water guidelines
- Marginally above drinking water guidelines in some areas
- All levels are significantly below recreational use guidelines specified by the Australian Government.

What about produce from my garden and neighbourhood?

Results from sampling garden produce from three homes spread across the identified residential area in 2020 **did not find any detectable levels of PFAS**, with laboratory detection limits being well below the Australian Food Standard for PFAS in fruit.

Testing of the produce was conducted by environmental consultant GHD on behalf of the MFS and with the permission of the residents of those properties.

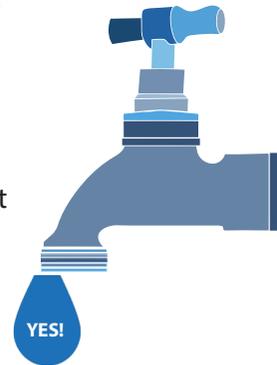
SA Health advises that the results from produce testing undertaken by the MFS indicate that there are no concerns about exposure to PFAS through consumption of garden produce in your identified neighbourhood area of Largs North.



Is my tap water safe to drink?

SA Water advises that it is safe for you and your family to consume tap water.

Scientific testing of tap water at Largs North Fire Station found that PFAS levels were below laboratory detection limits.



Should I use groundwater from my home?

No. SA Health advises that people residing within the boundaries of Willochra St, Riverina St, Paluma St and Victoria Rd at Largs North should not be using groundwater (bore water) for any purpose, including for human consumption and watering gardens.

SA EPA advises that bore water should never be used nor consumed without scientific testing by a specialist laboratory.

Please contact the EPA on 1800 729 175 or email EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au for further information about groundwater (bore water) sampling.

What are PFAS?

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in a range of common household products. Historically the MFS has rarely used firefighting foam containing PFAS on significant fuel fires.

Detailed information about PFAS is available on the MFS website at www.mfs.sa.gov.au.