



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2018-0086

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Published
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	N/A
6. Processing time (in working days)	34
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
9. Decision made by ACAT	N/A
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

From: [EPSDFOI](#)
To: [CMTEDD FOI](#)
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information - PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, 12 April 2018 12:34:37 PM

Hi CMTEDD FOI

I have received advice from within EPSDD that the below request should be directed to the EPA for response.

Do you accept a transfer?

Thank you

Heather Johnston
Information and Systems Support (Freedom of Information)
Phone 02 6207 1941
Information Management | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development | **ACT Government**
Dame Pattie Menzies House, Challis Street, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 11 April 2018 3:31 PM
To: EPSDFOI <EPSDFOI@act.gov.au>
Subject: Freedom of Information

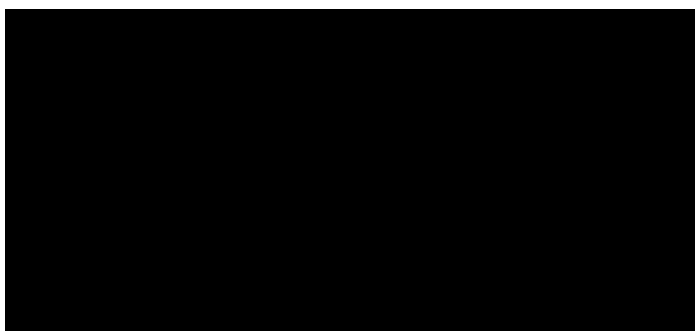
To whom it may concern

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request the following:

- Any documents either produced by the directorate or held by the directorate, concerning the presence of PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport
- Any documents either produced by the directorate or held by the directorate, concerning PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport and its entrance into ACT water tables/ waterways

If this request covers a large volume of material I am happy to discuss refining its scope. If matters covered by this request can be addressed in a process outside of the FoI Act I am also happy to discuss that.

Regards



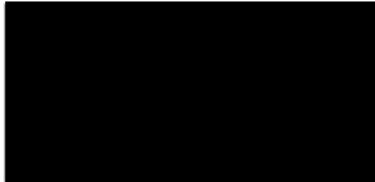




ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Our ref: CMTEDDFOI 2018-0086



via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 12 April 2018, in which you sought access to:

- Any documents either produced by the directorate or held by the directorate, concerning the presence of PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport; and
- Any documents either produced by the directorate or held by the directorate, concerning PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport and its entrance into ACT water tables/ waterways.

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of CMTEDD under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD was required to provide a decision on your access application by 11 May 2018. However, as a result of third party consultation, this deadline was extended by 15 working days. The new deadline is 1 June 2018.

Third Party Consultation

In making this decision, I completed consultation with relevant third parties in accordance with section 38 of the Act.

Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant documents and 13 documents were identified that fall within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant full access to 9 document and partial access to 4 documents. The information redacted in the documents I consider to be information that would, on

balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

I have included as Attachment A to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as Attachment B to this letter.

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decision is below.

Statement of Reasons

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act;
- the views and submissions made by relevant third parties;
- the content of the documents that fall within the scope of your request; and
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Exemption claimed

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the identified documents and components of these documents are as follows:

Public Interest

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interests lies. As part of this process I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when 'used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from "the subject matter and the scope and purpose" of the enactment in which it appears'. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure (Schedule 2.1)

- Contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest; and
- Reveal environmental or health risks or measures relating to public health and safety.

Factors favouring non-disclosure (Schedule 2.2)

- Prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Having considered the factors identified as relevant in this matter, I consider that release of information contained in these documents may contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest and may reveal environmental or health risks or measures relating to public health and safety by allowing you to have a more complete record of the interactions between various parties and the ACT Government and the steps taken to report and address the PFAS/PFOA contamination issue in relation to Canberra Airport.

When considering the documents and factors in favour of non-disclosure, I have considered the personal information contained in the documents, including names, signatures and contact information. I am satisfied that the names and contact information of government employees should be released as these individuals were acting in their official capacity and the personal information being released is done so in relation to these individuals exercising their delegations in a work related capacity. I do not consider the release of this information is unreasonable or could prejudice their right to privacy.

However, I consider it is unreasonable to release the names and contact information of individuals that are not ACT Government employees as this is personal information that is not publicly available. I am of the opinion that release of this information may prejudice the protection of the individual right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004. I am satisfied that this factor favouring non-disclosure should be afforded significant weight as it relates to individual privacy.

Noting the pro-disclosure intent of the Act, I am satisfied that redacting only the information that is not in the public interest to release, while releasing the rest of the documents will ensure the intent of the Act is met and will provide you with access to the majority of information held by CMTEDD within the scope of your request.

Folios 3, 5 and 17-20 of the identified documents contain information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

Additional Information

As part of the consultation process, Air Services Australia advised that some of the facts and figures in these documents are outdated. Air Services has requested that you contact them for more up-to-date information if required.

Charges

Pursuant to *Freedom of Information (Fees) Determination 2017 (No 2)* processing charges are not applicable for this request because the total number folio's to be released to you is below the charging threshold of 50 pages.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, my decision and documents released to you in response to your access application will be published in the CMTEDD disclosure log after 6 June 2018. Your personal contact details will not be published.

You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at:

<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in CMTEDD disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Level 4, 1 Moore St

GPO Box 370

Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Riley

Information Officer

Information Access Team

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

| June 2018



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	Reference NO.
	Any documents either produced by the directorate or held by the directorate, concerning the presence of PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport Any documents either produced by the directorate or held by the directorate, concerning PFAS/PFOA at Canberra Airport and its entrance into ACT water tables/ waterways	2018-0086

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1-3	Letter	16-Jul-2010	Partial release	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii)	Yes
2	4-5	Email chain	18-Nov-2010	Partial release	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii)	Yes
3	6-16	Presentation slides	30-Nov-2010	Full release	N/A	Yes
4	17-18	Email chain	14-Oct-2016	Partial release	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii)	Yes
5	19-20	Letter as attachment to above email	14-Oct-2016	Partial release	Sch 2 s2.2 (a)(ii)	Yes
6	21	Conceptual Site model as attachment to above email	14-Oct-2016	Full release	N/A	Yes
7	22-23	Draft minute	04-Nov2016	Full release	N/A	Yes
8	24-25	Minute	15-Nov-2016	Full release	N/A	Yes
9	26-27	Minute	25-Nov-2016	Full release	N/A	Yes
10	28-30	Ministerial Brief	25-Nov-2016	Full release	N/A	Yes
11	31-32	Minute	26-July-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
12	33	Ministerial Brief	20-Dec-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes

13	34-37	Response as attachment to above Ministerial Brief	20-Dec-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
Total No of Docs						
13						

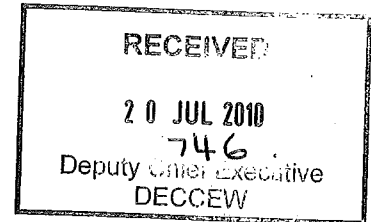


AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA

SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

25 Constitution Avenue
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel – 02 6268 5529
Fax – 02 6268 5414
ABN 59 698 720 886

Mr David Papps
Chief Executive
Department of the Environment, Climate Change,
Energy and Water
GPO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601



Dear Mr Papps,

Subject: Airservices Australia Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting operations at Canberra.

The purpose of this letter is to provide important information regarding Airservices Australia's ('Airservices') activities in the Australian Capital Territory.

Background

By way of background, Airservices is an Australian Government owned corporation which is responsible for air traffic control and related airside services for the Australian aviation industry (www.airservicesaustralia.com). Importantly, Airservices is currently responsible for aviation rescue and fire fighting services at 21 airports around Australia.

Airservices has legislative obligations under the *Air Services Act 1995* and the *Civil Aviation Safety Regulations* to ensure that the safety of air navigation is the most important consideration at all times. Airservices must be adequately resourced and experienced in order to comply with these safety obligations and provide effective fire fighting services.

As part of its aviation rescue and fire fighting activities, Airservices has used Aqueous Film Forming Foam ('AFFF') products for emergency response and training purposes.

In discharge of Airservices' environmental obligations, Airservices has become aware of potential contamination issues arising from the use of these AFFF products.

Airservices' Use of AFFF Products

Since the 1980's Airservices has been using various types of AFFF products at most major airports around Australia. These foam products contain fluorosurfactants (as active ingredients or as by-products) which can include perfluorooctane sulfonate ('PFOS') and perfluorooctanoic acid ('PFOA').



Fluorosurfactants are man-made surfactants that are designed to be heat stable, extremely resistant to degradation and environmental breakdown, and repel both water and oil. Fluorosurfactants have a widespread use and are contained in fire fighting foams and other applications such as water and stain repellents, lubricants (in the automotive and airline industries), anti-reflective coatings, fabrics, textiles, paper and leather as well as in wax, polishes, paints, varnishes, pesticide formulations and non-stick applications.

Preliminary contamination site assessments have been undertaken at various airports around Australia and the presence of PFOS, PFOA or both substances has been found at these locations. The degree of contamination in the soil and groundwater at and surrounding the airports will vary depending on the amount of AFFF product that has been used, the locations at the airport where it has been used, the local geology, level of rainfall and other influencing factors.

Current Investigations

Airservices is currently undertaking extensive investigations of current and past operations where AFFF products have been used. The purpose of these investigations is to determine the degree of any fluorosurfactant contamination at these airports, the likely source of that contamination (its presence does not automatically mean the source originated from Airservices' activities) and the extent of any contamination.

At present, there are limited environmental and health guidelines in Australia, or internationally, regarding appropriate thresholds for PFOS, PFOA or any other fluorosurfactant. Airservices is committed to working together with regulatory authorities, airports and other stakeholders to continue monitoring this issue and to develop appropriate management and any necessary remediation strategies.

Airservices has briefed and sought appropriate advice from the following Commonwealth Departments: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Health and Ageing; Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts and Defence. Airservices will keep these Departments informed of developments on a regular basis.

As part of Airservices' pro-active response to this issue, Airservices has ceased the use of AFFF for training and is currently in the process of changing to a fluorosurfactant-free fire-fighting foam for all operational uses. However, due to supply constraints, this transition will not be completed until late 2010. Ultimately, this foam provides the same fire-fighting capabilities as current AFFF products but does not contain environmentally persistent fluorosurfactants.



AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA

Airservices strives to minimise its environmental impact and regards its work in developing a complete understanding of the potential environmental issues associated with the use of AFFF as a key priority and one that needs to be balanced with our safety obligations. Airservices intends to keep you informed of the progress of this matter and looks forward to cooperatively resolving any issues should they arise.

Next Steps

Airservices will be contacting you shortly to arrange a meeting to discuss this further and to provide additional information but in the meantime please feel free to contact **Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)** Manager, Environment & Climate Change (phone: **Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)** email: **Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)**@airservicesaustralia.com), if you wish to discuss any aspect of this ongoing work.

Yours sincerely

Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)

General Manager, Safety & Environment

16 July 2010

Darling, Glenda

From: Walters, Daniel
Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2010 1:40 PM
To: Neil, Robert
Cc: Darling, Glenda
Subject: RE: Airservices ARFF poperations - Canberra Airport - foam use

Bob

I'm in Sydney 26th, Glenda has original papers which include technical assessments, no significant issues, however briefing would be welcome to confirm any issues.

Regards

Daniel Walters

Manager, Environment Protection
(Delegate, Environment Protection Authority)
Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water
☎Ph: (02) 6207 6334
☎Fax: (02) 6207 6084
✉email: daniel.walters@act.gov.au
<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/>

Please consider our environment before printing this e-mail.

1. CRC CARE are investigating & have developed a field tool?

From: Neil, Robert
Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2010 9:45 AM
To: Walters, Daniel
Subject: FW: Airservices ARFF poperations - Canberra Airport - foam use

Daniel

We should talk with them - I suggest you, Mark and I go. Any comment?

Bob NEIL

Director
Environment Protection
Department of the Environment, Climate Change,
Energy & Water
Phone: (02) 6207 2230
Fax: (02) 6207 2316
e-mail : [<mailto:robert.neil@act.gov.au>](mailto:robert.neil@act.gov.au)

From: Papps, David
Sent: Thursday, 18 November 2010 6:11 AM
To: Neil, Robert
Subject: FW: Airservices ARFF poperations - Canberra Airport - foam use

David Papps

Chief Executive
ACT Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water
t: 02 6205 8189 || m: 0466 151 392 || f: 02 6207 2244
Macarthur House 12 Wattle Street Lyneham ACT 2602
GPO Box 158 Canberra City ACT 2601

From: [Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)]@AirservicesAustralia.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 17 November 2010 6:00 PM
To: Papps, David
Subject: FW: Airservices ARFF poperations - Canberra Airport - foam use

Dear Mr Papps

Airservices in July this year sent letters to the State EPA's in relation to the ARFF operations at the relevant airports and of the awareness that there was a potential for contamination issues from the use of AFFF products.

[Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)] (Manager) & [Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)] (Environment specialist) would like to meet with you or your nominated representative to discuss the progress to date and to answer any questions that you may have from your Department's perspective on the issue.

I would appreciate if your EA could indicate your availability for a meeting next Thursday or Friday (25 or 26/11) or another timeframe that is convenient for you.

I have attached a copy of the letter that was forwarded in July on the subject matter.

Regards

[Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)]
ARFF-EMP Group
Airservices Environment Section
[Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)]



AIRSERVICES AUSTRALIA

ARFF Environmental Issues – Fire Fighting Foam

**Briefing to the ACT
Department of
Environment, Climate
Change, Energy and
Water (inc. ACT EPA)**

30 November 2010

Aim:

The aim of this brief is:

- To provide an update on Airservices' environmental issues at Canberra Airport as a result of Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting Service (ARFF) usage of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF);
 - follow-up to Airservices' letter dated 16 July 2010 to DECCEW.

Context:

- Airservices (ASA) has used Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) since the early 1980's;
- AFFFs contain fluorosurfactants which include:
 - Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS),
 - Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA);
- Up to 2003 ASA used an AFFF that contained PFOS;
- In 2003 ASA changed to a different AFFF product that was understood not to contain PFOS;
- PFOS was declared last year a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) by the Stockholm Convention, although it has not yet been ratified by the Australian Government.

Context:

- Fluorosurfactants are found in everyday products, such as:
 - fabric softener,
 - water or stain repelling products,
 - soil-wetting agents,
 - anti-fogging products,
 - pesticide formulations,
 - paints,
 - non-stick cooking appliances such as Teflon;
- International studies have indicated PFOS can be found in the environment and the blood of the general population due to its widespread use in everyday products.

Extent:

- ASA has used AFFF at 39 airports (21 current and 18 legacy), including Canberra;
- Although ASA was assured PFOS was not a constituent of the current AFFF, recent tests by ASA indicate the presence of PFOS and PFOA (further work being undertaken to verify);
- Like many current and former ARFF sites, Canberra Airport has been contaminated to some extent by AFFF products due to training activities or operational responses.

- Fire fighting training grounds (FTGs) are the main sites of ASA related AFFF use;
- The proximity of groundwater and waterways in the vicinity of airports requires further investigation;
- Although ASA is no longer using AFFF for training, fluorosurfactants are being released from FTGs (concrete infrastructure?);
- State/Federal Airport Operators notified of issue;
- ASA to commence investigations to inform the Airports, regulators and ourselves on the extent of the impact of AFFF use;
- A beneficial uses risk assessment will also be undertaken.



Other Matters:

- Although current research indicates no discernible link between fluorosurfactant exposure and human health – a precautionary approach is being adopted to establish the facts;
- ASA Board fully aware of the issue;
- ASA seeks to work with the airport owners / operators, regulators, and stakeholders;
- ASA will consult on the investigation plans and provide assessment reports.

Way Ahead - Foam:

- ARFF is transitioning to a fluorosurfactant free foam designed for release to sewer:
 - Transition by late 2010,
 - ICAO approved,
 - CASA endorsed;
- Foam only used in an operational deployment;
- For local stations:
 - 'Water only' training, CASA approved,
 - cleaning of all FTG infrastructure;
- Centralised training facility to be established in Melbourne.



Way Ahead (con't):

- R&D:
 - Commission pilot treatment plant at Hobart Airport to treat wastewater;
 - High temperature destruction of contaminated sludge (Qld facility);
 - Discussions with CSIRO.

Summary:

- Proactive approach;
- Precautionary risk assessments and on-site risk analysis;
- External environmental consultants to undertake soil and groundwater testing;
- Working closely with Airport owners and regulators
 - access to airports, permits, contacts etc;
- Updates as required.

Questions & discussion



From: [Heckenberg, Mark](#)
To: [Power, David](#)
Subject: RE: Update on Project to Identify Potential Water Extraction Sources [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 14 October 2016 9:26:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

Dave,

In the first instance Heath would be the appropriate contact for the water data requested to support the CSM. The adequacy of the CSM and all assessment and remedial works should be independently audited. This is consistent with the approach to be taken at JBT.

Regards

Mark Heckenberg | Manager, Contaminated Sites | Environmental Quality
Phone: 02 6207 2151 | Email: mark.heckenberg@act.gov.au
Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection | Access Canberra | ACT Government
GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | <http://www.act.gov.au/accesscbr>

From: Power, David
Sent: Friday, 14 October 2016 9:17 AM
To: Heckenberg, Mark <Mark.Heckenberg@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Update on Project to Identify Potential Water Extraction Sources [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Mark

Can you please review the Attachment.

Dave

From: [Sch 2 s2\(a\)\(ii\) \[REDACTED\]@AirservicesAustralia.com](#)
Sent: Thursday, 13 October 2016 4:45 PM
To: Power, David
Cc: PFC Comms; [Sch 2 s2\(a\)\(ii\) \[REDACTED\]](#); [Sch 2 s2\(a\)\(ii\) \[REDACTED\]@infrastructure.gov.au](#)
Subject: Update on Project to Identify Potential Water Extraction Sources [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello

Please find attached correspondence from Airservices Australia relating to ongoing PFAS management works.

Regards

[Sch 2 s2\(a\)\(ii\) \[REDACTED\]](#)
Administration Assistant
Airservices Australia
25 Constitution Avenue, Canberra ACT 2601

t Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)

e Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)@airservicesaustralia.com

Website



CAUTION: This e-mail is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not disclose or use the information contained in it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please tell us immediately by return e-mail and delete the document. Airservices Australia does not represent, warrant or guarantee that the integrity of his communication is free of errors, virus or interference.

Mr David Power
Manager Environment Protection Authority
ACT Government Environment & Planning Directorate - Environment
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Cc:

Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)

General Manager Airports, Aviation and Airports
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Power,

Update on Project to Identify Potential Water Extraction Sources

On 1 June 2016, Airservices wrote to you to provide an update on Airservices ongoing national program for management of residues at airports where fire fighting foams containing Per- and Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), have historically been used by aviation rescue and fire fighting services.

Airservices has since progressed with a desktop assessment seeking to identify off-airport drinking water sources potentially impacted by the historic use of PFAS containing fire fighting foams.

Specialist environmental consultants were engaged to undertake this work. They utilised Airservices' and publically available information in order to develop preliminary Conceptual Site Models (CSMs) for each site following a 'Source-Pathway-Receptor' exposure model. The CSMs are based on a number of assumptions. It is acknowledged that the assessment is inherently limited due to its desktop nature and lack of broadly available information.

Specific to the ACT, the relevant preliminary CSMs can be found in **Attachment A**.

On that basis, Airservices is seeking to work with your department to validate the assumptions that were used. Specifically we are seeking to confirm assumptions made with regards to the site hydrology, potential for groundwater bores and known/potential users of surface or groundwater. The validation of the assumptions will inform next steps.

We are proposing a teleconference/meeting with Airservices and your agencies specialists to work through the attached CSMs. It would be immensely useful if we were able to discuss the availability of information known to you to be generally available or whether your department has any specific information or knowledge about the sites.

We would appreciate if you could please nominate an appropriate point of contact to coordinate these further discussions.

Airservices point of contact on this matter is Sch 2 s2(a)(ii) who can be contacted on Sch 2 s2(a)(ii) (Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)@airservicesaustralia.com) if you have any further questions or comments.

Yours sincerely,

Sch 2 s2(a)(ii)
Customer Value and Business Performance Manager
Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Services

Airservices Australia

**Identification of Potential Off-site Exposure to PFAS Impacted Drinking Water – A
Desktop Assessment**

Conceptual Site Model

Airport Details	
Airport Name:	Canberra
Airport Address:	Canberra International Airport, ACT 2609
State:	ACT
ARFF Status	Current

CSM		
Type	Description	
Source	On-Airport	Historical AFFF use confirmed - 3M Lightwater™ and Ansulite™.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multiple source areas identified on site including the ARFF Main Fire Station (MFS) and the Fire Training Ground (FTG). ● Impacts to both surface soils and groundwater confirmed.
Pathway	Complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Groundwater reported 9-11m bgl within sand/clay aquifer ● Surface water migration south west ● Groundwater recharge from surface water ● Groundwater migration south west
	Groundwater Bores	Beneficial users of groundwater off-site - numerous bores downgradient of the site.
		Bores Registered for various uses including water supply and unknown purposes.
		Potential for unknown/unregistered drinking water bores off Airport
Receptor	Canberra drinking water obtained from river catchments and dams.	
	Freshwater aquifer potentially utilised offsite for drinking water.	

Agriculture Senior Officials Committee 7
4 November 2016

Agenda Item 6: Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)

Proposed ACT Position:

That the ACT **supports** the recommendations of this agenda item.

Background:

- Contamination of soil and groundwater with PFASs around defence and other sites from use of fire-retardant foams was an agenda item at AGSOC 6 and AGMIN 4.
- Recent studies have found possible associations between PFASs and human health problems, but more research is required before definitive statements can be made on causality and risk.
- Eighteen Commonwealth-owned defence sites and airports around Australia are being subjected to detailed testing or initial assessment to determine whether further testing is required. [Defence on 24 October 2016 released a preliminary assessment reports to jurisdictions for sites under investigation including HMAS Creswell in Jervis Bay.](#)
- There are also contaminated sites not owned by the Commonwealth, such as the Country Fire Authority training centre at Fiskville, Victoria. [Victoria is undertaking a state wide assessment of CFA sites.](#)
- The agenda paper describes the budget and activities being undertaken by the Commonwealth to address PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW and the Army Aviation Centre at Oakey, Qld.
- At Williamtown, possible risks may result from high consumption of groundwater, eating eggs from backyard chickens that drink PFAS-contaminated water, and commercial catches of dusky flathead from the Hunter River.
- At Oakey, residents using bore water are being provided with drinking water.
- In June 2016, Australia's Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) adopted European Food Safety Authority standards for PFASs as interim guidelines for drinking water and recreational water use pending determination of health-based guidance values by Food Standards Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ). [In August following an independent review the EnHealth interim guidance was confirmed as appropriate for the Australian context.](#)
- Maximum Limits for PFASs in food have not been established by domestic or international food regulators to date and will involve an amendment of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code if proposed.
- The Australian Government is working with industry and jurisdictions to assure producers and consumers their food is safe.
- No trading partners have expressed concern about PFASs.
- State and territory agencies have not reported any issues associated with animal welfare after exposure at contaminated sites.
- A coordinated response requires input from the Commonwealth (including environment, defence, health, and agriculture and water resources agencies), and

state and territory agencies responsible for health, environment protection, agriculture and food.

- The Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy has finalised draft Environmental Management Guidance for two PFASs that sets investigation levels for soil and trigger levels for ecological water resources.
- AGSOC members are asked to note the work underway in relation to PFAS contamination and agree to ongoing engagement and effective collaboration to support a consistent response.

Issues for the ACT:

- Environment Protection Policy, EPD advised in May 2016 that PFAS-containing fire retardant foams are no longer used in the ACT by ACT fire fighting agencies.
- Contamination from historical use has been identified in soil and groundwater at the Canberra Airport and Belconnen Fire Training Facilities.
- No off-site impacts have been reported by the Airport or are evident for the Belconnen site and groundwater in both the areas is not utilised for drinking or agricultural purposes.
- ESA in consultation with Access Canberra is undertaking an assessment of other potential sites in the ACT. To compliment this assessment Access Canberra is proposing to undertake preliminary sampling of ACT water ways.
- On and off-site ground and surface water impacts from the contamination of Defence facilities at Jervis Bay has been identified and is being managed by the Commonwealth in consultation with ACT Health and Access Canberra.
- Environment Protection Policy, EPD supports a coordinated response on this issue across health, environment, food and agriculture ministerial portfolios and forums across all jurisdictions.
- Environment Protection Policy, EPD is a member of the recently formed National Chemicals Working Group under Heads of EPA's Forum which has been tasked with developing a Green Paper for PFAS management by January 2017 to inform a National Summit in March 2016.
- The Health Directorate advised in May 2016 that PFASs are not permitted in food as there is no maximum residue limit. PFASs have been detected in very low levels in fish fillets and beef sausages, but these levels are well below tolerable daily intake levels.

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Financial Implications:

- There are no immediate financial implications for the ACT in supporting the recommendations of this agenda item.

Contact	Alison McInnes	Telephone	6205 8331
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**Meeting of Environment Ministers 5
25 November 2016, Sydney**

Agenda Item 3.3.b: Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) management actions: status report

Proposed ACT Position:

- **Note** the update on PFAS management actions

Background:

This agenda item provides a brief update from each jurisdiction and the Commonwealth on what PFAS management actions are being undertaken.

PFAS (per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances) are a group of chemicals that resist heat, stains, grease and water that were widely used from the 1950s in a variety of industrial applications including fire fighting foams and a range of common household products including non-stick cookware, fabric, furniture and food packaging.

Use of two types of PFAS, PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) began to be globally phased out in the early 2000s as concerns surfaced over their environmental and health impacts.

PFOS and PFOA persist in the environment, are mobile in soil and water, accumulate through the food chain and have adverse effects in animals. There is contention on the extent of health effects. However, it is recommended exposure to PFOS and PFOA be minimised as a precaution to protect human health and the environment.

The past use of PFOS and PFOA in historical formulations of Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) to fight fires has led to contamination of sites around Australia. Contaminated sites are a potential source of exposure to humans and the environment.

Australian governments have been collaborating and sharing information on their response to PFAS contamination within their jurisdictions through Heads EPAs (HEPA) and its relevant working groups.

A desired outcome of future collaboration between jurisdictions will be to develop and implement nationally consistent guidance and standards to respond to PFAS contamination, including a possible PFAS National Environmental Management Plan. Draft Commonwealth Environmental Management Guidance will be an important contribution to this work.

Issues for the ACT:

PFAS containing fire retardant foams (AFFF) are no longer used in the ACT by ACT fire fighting agencies.

AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was also used in training, mostly at the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre but also at some ACT Fire and Rescue

Cleared by: Greg Jones EPA (Access Canberra), Mark Brown (ESA)

Date: 15 November 2016

(ACTF&R) fire stations. The phasing out of AFFF foam concentrate by ACTF&R commenced in September 2004 and it was completely withdrawn from service in April 2005 and replaced with fluorine-free foam concentrate.

ACTF&R still carry 9 litre AFFF fire extinguishers on its fire fighting vehicles and is currently investigating the replacement of these with a fluorine-free alternative.

ESA has identified potential sites where AFFF may have been used in training and a risk assessment has been conducted to determine the likelihood that contamination resulted. These include the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre, the current Fyshwick, Gungahlin, Chisholm, Ainslie, Phillip and Kambah Fire Stations, and the former fire station sites in Charnwood and Greenway.

The Environment Protection Authority (Access Canberra) will use the outcomes of the risk assessment to advise on the extent of sampling required at these sites e.g. soil and/or ground/surface water sampling.

To complement this assessment Access Canberra will undertake preliminary sampling of ACT water ways to determine background levels in ACT waterways. The National Capital Authority (Lake Burley Griffin) is participating in the water quality sampling. Water sampling is scheduled for November.

The ACT has a number of other sites with the potential for historical contamination, including bulk fuel storage facilities, Canberra Airport and miscellaneous Commonwealth Government facilities (i.e. Defence facilities, research sites, space tracking facilities and police training grounds. It is anticipated a similar processes will be performed with the assessment of Commonwealth facilities in the ACT.

Contamination from historical use of PFASs has been identified in soil and groundwater at the Canberra Airport and former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre. No off-site impacts have been reported by the Airport or are evident for the Belconnen site, with groundwater in both areas not utilised for drinking or agricultural purposes.

On and off-site ground and surface water impacts from the Defence facilities at Jervis Bay (ACT Territory) has been identified and is being managed by the Commonwealth in consultation with the ACT Chief Health Officer, ACT Health and Access Canberra.

EnHealth have release interim guidance criteria for PFASs in recreational and drinking water which have been adopted nationally by environment agencies to guide investigations.

It is expected that there will be media interest in any results identified in excess of the EnHealth criteria found on sites in the ACT.

Financial Implications:

The costs to undertake preliminary sampling of ACT waterways for PFAS will be incorporated into the ACT waters quality sampling program. JACS Capital Works & Infrastructure (CWI) is currently seeking quotes for the sampling of ESA sites.

Contact	Daniel Walters	Telephone	76334
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Cleared by: Greg Jones EPA (Access Canberra), Mark Brown (ESA)
Date: 15 November 2016



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Date	TRIM No: File No:
<hr/>	
To	Greg Jones- Environment Protection Authority David Middlemiss- Deputy Director, Construction Environment and Workplace Protection
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From	Rodney Dix- Manager Environment Regulation & Protection
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Subject	<i>Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) management actions: status report for Meeting of Environment Ministers</i>
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Critical date and reason

1. ASAP for **Meeting of Environment Ministers** (MEM) on 25 November 2016.

Background

2. On the agenda for the meeting is an item entitled: *Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) management actions: status report.*
3. This issue was discussed at the recent Senior Officials Group teleconference last week. It was agreed that going forward, the MEM should include updates from all states and territories and the Commonwealth.
4. The Commonwealth have requested small reports from every jurisdiction on current PFAS actions underway.

Issues

5. PFAS actions underway in the ACT

The ACT has a number of sites with the potential for contamination with PFAS. The sites are urban firefighting facilities, Defence facilities, the Airport and miscellaneous Commonwealth Government facilities (ie research sites, space tracking and police training grounds).

The ACT Emergency Services Agency has performed a risk assessment, including a rating of the likelihood of PFAS substances being used, of sites that have been used as firefighting facilities (ie stations, storage depots, training grounds). The risk assessment will determine the extent of sampling that is required for each site. It is expected that a similar process will be performed across Commonwealth Government sites, with potential for PFAS use, in the ACT.

As part of the regular waterway monitoring in the ACT PFAS will be analysed and an indication of background concentrations will be available for the ACT, the National Capital Authority (Lake Burley Griffin) are joining with the background screen. Samples are scheduled for collection early November.

The risk of human ingestion in the ACT is low as all drinking water is derived from uninhabited (national park) catchments and there is no known groundwater used for consumption.

ACT is participating in the recently formed National Chemicals Working Group under Heads of EPA's Forum which has been tasked with developing a Green Paper for PFAS management by January 2017 to inform a National Summit in March 2016.

Consultation

6. At this stage Environment Protection have held discussions with the Emergency Services Agency, National Capital Authority and ICON Water. As the issue develops various section of the Commonwealth (Defence, CSIRO, Airport, Police) with ACT sites will be engaged.
7. EPA Policy have assisted with the preparation of the status report.

Financial

8. There are no financial issues with an ACT status report.

Risks/ Sensitivities

9. Risk and sensitive may arise if the ACT is not seen to be conducting activities surrounding this issue.

Media

10. Further development of the issue is likely to generate some media interest. The ACT status report will assist with the ACT not being an outlier in terms of a jurisdiction taking actions to address concerns.

Recommendations

That you:

- Approve submission to the Commonwealth of the ACT status report contained in the issues section of this minute

Action Officer: Heath Chester

Phone: 75728

Greg Jones..... / /
AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS



UNCLASSIFIED

TRIM No.: Click here to enter text.
Date Rec'd Minister's Office .../.../...

To: Minister for Police and Emergency Services

From: Commissioner ACT Emergency Services Agency

Subject: Potential contamination from historical use of firefighting foam concentrates

Critical Date: Urgent

Critical Reason: Meeting of Environment Ministers is scheduled for 25 November 2016

- DG (JACS) .../.../...
- DDG CS .../.../...

Purpose

1. To inform the Minister that the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) is assisting the Environment Protection Authority to undertake an analysis of sites potentially contaminated with compounds previously found in firefighting foam concentrates.

Background

2. The compounds perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) were present in aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) concentrate used by ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R). PFOS and PFOA are part of a group of man-made chemicals also found in a range of common household products including non-stick cookware, fabric, furniture and food packaging.
3. PFOS and PFOA are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment i.e. they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time. The Australian Environmental Health Standing Committee found that there is currently no consistent evidence that exposure to PFOS or PFOA causes adverse human health effects. However, studies in laboratory animals suggest that these compounds may promote the incidence of some cancers and PFOA has been classified as a possible carcinogen.
4. AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was also used in training, mostly at the old Belconnen Training Centre but also at some ACTF&R fire stations. The phasing out of AFFF foam concentrate by ACTF&R commenced in September 2004 and it was completely withdrawn from service in April 2005 and replaced with fluorine-free foam concentrate.
5. ACTF&R still carry 9 litre AFFF fire extinguishers on its firefighting vehicles and is currently investigating the replacement of these with a fluorine-free alternative.

Government Commitment – Government Priority

6. Community Safety, Environment Protection.

Issues

- 7. ESA has identified potential sites where AFFF may have been used in training and a risk assessment has been conducted to determine the likelihood that contamination resulted. These include the decommissioned Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre, the current Fyshwick, Gungahlin, Chisholm, Ainslie, Phillip and Kambah Fire Stations, and the former fire station sites in Charnwood and Greenway.
- 8. The Environment Protection Authority will use the outcomes of the risk assessment to determine the extent of sampling required at these sites e.g. soil and/or ground water sampling.

Financial Implications

- 9. Not known at this time. JACS Capital Works & Infrastructure (CWI) is currently seeking quotes for the site sampling.

JACS Directorate and Cross Directorate Consultation

- 10. There has been ongoing consultation with JACS CWI ~~and~~ the Environment Protection Authority ~~and~~ (Access Canberra) in relation to identifying and testing sites that may be contaminated with PFOS or PFOA.

External Consultation

- 11. Nil associated with this brief to date.

Benefits/Sensitivities

- 12. There has been extensive media coverage in relation to PFOS and PFOA contamination, particularly in relation to sites owned and operated by the Defence Department.

Media Implications

- 13. It is expected that there will be media interest in any contamination found on sites owned or operated by the ACT Government.

Recommendations

That you:

- 1. Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

Mick Gentleman MLA /...../.....

Minister's Comments

Signatory Name:	Dominic Lane	Phone:	X78383
Title:	Commissioner		
Date:	November 2016		
Action Officer:	Mark Brown	Phone:	X78122



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

Agriculture Ministers' Forum 5
26 July 2017

Agenda Item 4: Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Proposed ACT Position: That the ACT **supports** the recommendations of this agenda item.

Background:

- Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination originating from fire-fighting foams continues to be a source of public concern. There are currently 123 potentially contaminated sites on Commonwealth land (primarily Defence and airport sites). Other contaminated sites include fire fighting agency premises in Victoria, NSW and Qld, and a spill from a QANTAS facility at Brisbane Airport.
- On 4 May 2017, AGSOC agreed to support effective collaboration between jurisdictions and the Commonwealth, to ensure a consistent response across Australia, including sharing information, data and key messages on PFAS contamination. The Commonwealth considers this essential to effectively address community concerns and avoid potential market access issues for Australian produce.
- The agenda paper describes Australian Government activities to address PFAS contamination issues. A cross-agency taskforce has been established to oversee the Commonwealth response, provide strategic communications, develop a nationally-consistent approach to managing PFAS contamination through COAG, and consider options for improving coordination and collaboration of efforts at local, regional and state/territory levels.
- A Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) report released on 3 April 2017 confirmed there is no consistent evidence that exposure to PFAS is harmful to human health and FSANZ has recommended new tolerable daily intake (TDI) values for use in site investigations. The TDIs are a precautionary measure pending further research.
- FSANZ has not recommended a regulatory approach or Maximum Levels of PFAS for food consumption due to lack of available data or evidence of health effects. FSANZ recommends trigger points be employed by state and territory agencies analysing PFAS in foods to identify when further investigation is required. People living in affected communities are advised to follow state and territory authority recommendations.
- Currently there are no impacts on agricultural export trade and no trading partner has expressed concern about PFAS contamination in Australian products. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is monitoring potential implications for export markets.
- AGMIN members are asked to note these issues.

Issues for the ACT:

- The Senior Manager, Environment Protection Policy, EPSDD supports the recommendations of this agenda item.
- PFAS-containing fire retardant foams are no longer used in the ACT by ACT fire-fighting agencies.
- Contamination from historic fire fighting foam use has been identified in soil and groundwater at the Canberra Airport and Belconnen Fire Training Facilities.

- No off-site impacts have been reported by the Airport or are evident from the Belconnen site, and groundwater in both areas is not utilised for drinking or agricultural purposes.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency in consultation with Access Canberra is undertaking an assessment of other potentially contaminated sites in the ACT. To complement this assessment Access Canberra has undertake preliminary sampling of ACT waterways with no detectable impacts identified.
- On- and off-site ground and surface water impacts from the Defence facilities at Jervis Bay have been identified and are being managed by the Commonwealth in consultation with ACT Health and Access Canberra.
- Environment Protection Policy supports a coordinated response on this issue across health, environment, food and agriculture ministerial portfolios and forums in all jurisdictions.

The Senior Manager, Environment Protection Policy, is a member of the recently formed National Chemicals Working Group under the Heads of Environment Protection Authorities (HEPA) Forum, which has been tasked with developing a PFAS management plan. A National Summit was held in Melbourne on 4-6 April to develop the plan. The outcomes and next steps from the Summit are currently being considered by HEPA and will be transmitted to Senior Official Group and Meeting of Environment Ministers on 31 May and 30 June respectively for their consideration.

Financial Implications:

- There are no immediate financial implications for the ACT in supporting this agenda item. However it should be noted that HEPA members and the Commonwealth agreed at the recent HEPA meeting to provide funding of \$250,000 for further development of the PFAS management plan. It was also agreed that cost be shared on the NEPC funding model, where ACT's contribution is 0.8% (\$2,000).

Contact Daniel Walters**Telephone** 6207 6334



ACT
Government

Environment, Planning and
Sustainable Development

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MINISTERIAL BRIEF

To: Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Tracking No.: 17/34535
Rec'd Minister's Office .../.../...

From: Director-General
Deputy Director-General, Land Strategy and Environment
Executive Director, Environment

Subject: Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl Substances National Environmental Management Plan (PFAS NEMP)

Critical Date: 20 December 2017

Critical Reason: The Meeting of Environment Ministers secretariat has requested that responses be provided to them by this date.

Purpose

To seek your agreement to the Meeting of Environment Ministers (MEM) Out of Session (OOS) Paper 17-1 for the Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances National Environmental Management Plan (PFAS NEMP).

Recommendations

That you:

1. **Agree** to and **Sign** the Out of Session Response for OOS 17-1 (**Attachment 1**)

Signed / Not Signed / Please Discuss

Select Minister/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

Background

1. MEM agreed in November 2016 that all jurisdictions have a critical role to play in developing nationally consistent standards for managing environmental contamination by PFAS.
2. Drafting of the PFAS NEMP began at the Environmental Regulators PFAS Summit in Melbourne on 4–5 April 2017, hosted by EPA Victoria, on behalf of Heads of EPAs Australia and New Zealand (HEPA) and the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy. EPSDD, ACT Health and Access Canberra (EPA) participated in the summit and development of the PFAS NEMP.
3. In July 2017, MEM noted the working draft of the PFAS NEMP and a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Ministers also noted that the final PFAS NEMP was to be submitted for endorsement in late 2017.

Issues

PFAS NEMP

4. In August 2017, HEPA, through jurisdiction websites, published a consultation draft of the PFAS NEMP together with a one-page guide. There were over 180 responses, including more than 80 submissions. The consultation draft seeking comments was placed on the EPSDD and Access Canberra web sites. Public comments were provided to EPA Victoria for consolidation to inform and finalisation of the PFAS NEMP.
5. During August and September 2017, EPA Victoria, under the direction of HEPA, organised and ran consultation sessions in all capital cities.
6. The PFAS NEMP will guide environmental regulators of PFAS contaminated sites, PFAS contaminated materials and, where applicable, PFAS-containing products.
7. The PFAS NEMP has been agreed to by HEPA and the Senior Officials Group (SOG). Greg Jones (Access Canberra) is the ACT EPA and represents the ACT on HEPA with Ben Ponton DG, EPSDD the ACT SOG member.
8. The Council of Australian Governments will be asked to endorse an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) on a National Framework for responding to PFAS contamination, likely in first quarter of 2018. The PFAS NEMP will be an attachment to the IGA. CMTEDD is co-coordinating the ACT response to the IGA with input from ACT Health, EPA, ESA, JACS and EPSDD.
9. The PFAS NEMP will be further updated in mid-2018, to ensure it continues to reflect scientific knowledge and a best practice approach. Victoria will lead this work in collaboration with the Commonwealth, with different jurisdictions taking responsibility for specific component projects. A number of elements may require funding. These will be submitted to HEPA for approval and authorised by SOG in the normal way.

PFAS Contamination in the ACT

10. Bulk PFAS containing fire retardant foams (AFFF) are no longer used in the ACT by ACT firefighting agencies.
11. AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was also used in training, mostly at the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre but also at some ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) fire stations. The phasing out of AFFF foam concentrate by ACTF&R commenced in September 2004 and it was completely withdrawn from service in April 2005 and replaced with fluorine-free foam concentrate. ACTF&R still carry nine (9) litre AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles, with these currently being replaced with fluorine-free alternatives.
12. ESA has identified potential sites where AFFF may have been used in training and is seeking budget funding to undertake assessments of these sites to determine if contamination has occurred. These include the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre, the current Fyshwick, Gungahlin, Chisholm, Ainslie, Phillip and Kambah Fire Stations, and the former fire station sites in Charnwood and Greenway.
13. The EPA will review the assessments undertaken by ESA and provide advice on any further assessment or remediation required.
14. To complement these assessments, Access Canberra has undertaken preliminary sampling of ACT water ways to determine background levels. The National Capital Authority (Lake Burley Griffin) and Icon Water participated in the water quality sampling. The water sampling results indicate no impacts in ACT waterways, however the sampling was limited and further, more targeted sampling will be undertaken, as informed by the ESA site assessments and EPA identification of other potentially impacted sites.
15. The EPA is also investigating changes to landfill and sewage treatment plant licenses to incorporate sampling for PFAS's in the standard monitoring programs determine if discharges or inflows of PFAS are occurring at the facilities. Landfills and sewerage treatment works are potential sources as they accumulate PFAS sources from household, commercial and industrial wastes and discharges.
16. The ACT has a number of other sites with the potential for historical contamination including ~~landfills, sewage treatment facilities,~~ bulk fuel storage sites ~~facilities~~, Canberra Airport and miscellaneous Commonwealth Government facilities (i.e. Defence facilities, research sites, space tracking facilities and police training grounds). It is anticipated a similar process will be performed with the assessment of Commonwealth facilities in the ACT.
17. Contamination from historical use of PFASs has been identified in soil and groundwater at the Canberra Airport and former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre. No off-site impacts have been reported by the airport or are evident for the Belconnen site, ~~with and~~ groundwater in both areas is not utilised for drinking or agricultural purposes. Air Services Australia have recently obtained approval from the NSW EPA to dispose of PFAS contaminated soil from the Canberra Airport into NSW.
18. On and off-site ground and surface water impacts from the Defence facilities at Jervis Bay (ACT) has been identified and is being managed by the Commonwealth in consultation with the ACT Chief Health Officer and Access Canberra (EPA).

19. It is expected that there will be media interest in any results identified in excess of the nationally adopted criteria found on sites in the ACT. The PFAS NEPM will assist in informing a consistent national approach to sites contaminated with PFAS and includes guidance on stakeholder engagement to facilitate discussion with the media and community to ensure consistent approaches and messaging from government.

Financial Implications

20. There are no financial implications associated with this brief.
21. ESA, JACS are in the process of obtaining funding to assess sites utilised by emergency services for fire training activities which may have been impacted by PFAS firefighting foams.
22. Access Canberra (EPA) are working with ESA and other agencies and stakeholders to identify potential impacted sites and any assessment required. Initial sampling of ACT lakes by the Access Canberra (EPA) has not found any impacts.
23. Future contributions for any ongoing works in 2018 are likely to be limited due the NEPC formula which requires the ACT to contribute 0.82% of the total costs.

Internal

24. Nil

Cross Directorate

25. Consultation has been undertaken with ACT Health, ESA (JACS), CMTEDD, ACT NoWaste (TCCS) and Access Canberra (EPA) throughout the development of the PFAS NEMP and associated documents. Health Protection (ACT Health) and Access Canberra (EPA) officials participated in the summit and subsequent development of the PFAS NEMP.

External

26. Nil

Benefits/Sensitivities

27. There are limited issues for the ACT with the only major source of PFAS contamination identified to date restricted to the Canberra Airport site as a result of the previous fire training facility operated by Air Services (Cmlth). The ESA and EPA investigations may change this in the future as more site specific information becomes available.

Media Implications

28. The Commonwealth will issue a statement following endorsement by MEM as detailed (Attachment E). It is proposed, subject to your agreement, that EPSDD and Access Canberra (EPA) include the statement on their respective web sites to inform the community and stakeholders of the release of the PFAS NEMP.

Signatory Name: Annie Lane

Phone:

Action Officer: Daniel Walters

Phone: 76334

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