

# PFAS

## GROUNDWATER MONITORING RESULTS



**In February 2020, we provided you with an information sheet regarding the installation of groundwater monitoring wells in your area to monitor PFAS concentrations. This flyer is to update you on the results.**

### What is PFAS?

PFAS stands for 'per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substance'. PFAS are ingredients in some common domestic products such as paints, dishwasher rinse aids, textile treatments (water proofing, stain prevention) and in certain types of firefighting foams called AFFF (aqueous film forming foams). The use of firefighting foam containing PFAS at Parafield Airport stopped in 1986.

### Where are you monitoring?

Investigations at Parafield Airport identified the presence of PFAS on airport from the past use of firefighting foams at the airport by former Commonwealth agencies. Results were generally low on the airport. Following our investigations, further targeted sampling was conducted and a higher level of PFAS was detected at the north western boundary of the airport.

### What's the latest?

Two additional monitoring wells were installed in February 2020, shown in the map (on reverse) as 'P60' and 'P61'. These wells were installed to define the western extent of the PFAS concentrations.

### What are the results?

Investigation work undertaken from November 2018 to February 2020 included shallow groundwater samples taken from 12 wells installed on public land.

Of the 12 wells sampled, 5 wells (including fringe well P60) had PFAS concentrations below human health guidance values for site investigations. Groundwater at 6 of the monitoring wells had PFAS concentrations just above human health guidance values for drinking water and below the value for recreational water use.

The PFAS concentrations found in well P61 were above drinking and recreational health guidance values and not consistent with an on-airport source and so subject to further testing by the EPA.

### What happens next?

PAL has shared the results with the South Australian Environment Protection Authority (SA EPA), the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, SA Water, SA Health and the City of Salisbury to determine the appropriate next steps including appropriate ongoing monitoring measures. The SA EPA is reviewing the data obtained to determine whether an alternative PFAS source exists in the area,

### What does this mean for me?

This will only affect people using shallow groundwater such as from bores in this area. SA Health advises that shallow bores are not generally recommended as a suitable source of drinking water, particularly in urban areas, due to the high likelihood of chemical or microbial contamination. A groundwater survey undertaken in 2019 indicated no-one in the investigation area is using shallow groundwater.

### Contact

If you have any questions or comments please contact the designated PFAS hotline which will be operating Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm.

**Hotline: (08) 8470 9031**

For further information on groundwater contamination in the Adelaide area, please visit the EPA website at [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) or contact the EPA on (08) 8204 2004. For further information around health concerns please refer to the SA Health PFAS factsheet [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au) or contact SA Health's Scientific Services on (08) 8226 7100.



