

Groundwater testing - Jandakot Airport

16 November 2022

Jandakot Airport Holdings (JAH) is conducting a series of tests of the groundwater and soil at Jandakot Airport to investigate potential contamination from historic use of firefighting foams.

Testing for potential contamination on airport land is not new. In 2012, JAH commenced monitoring of a decommissioned firefighting area to identify potential contamination. JAH has continued to monitor in subsequent years.

Recent monitoring of groundwater has detected perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at above acceptable drinking water standards on the north-west boundary of the airport. This led to the decision to undertake testing on public land off site.

PFAS were once commonly added to firefighting foams to improve their ability to smother fires. Foam with PFAS was phased out from the early 2000s.

The WA Health Department recommends against the use of bore water for such uses as drinking, cooking, watering edible plants and filling swimming or paddling pools, without first testing the water for suitability.

Current State and Federal government guidance for PFAS is that risks to human health are low.

Residents near the north-west boundary have been contacted to suggest they pause the use of bore water while further investigations are undertaken.

Additional communication channels have been made available to keep residents informed, including:

- a hotline for residents
- a dedicated website including FAQs and a survey of local residents to identify how they use groundwater on their property
- an [Australian Government fact sheet](#) on PFAS
- advice from [WA Health](#) on PFAS exposure

Regulators have also been notified.

We are working with our environmental consultants and relevant government agencies to undertake further investigations.

ENDS

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