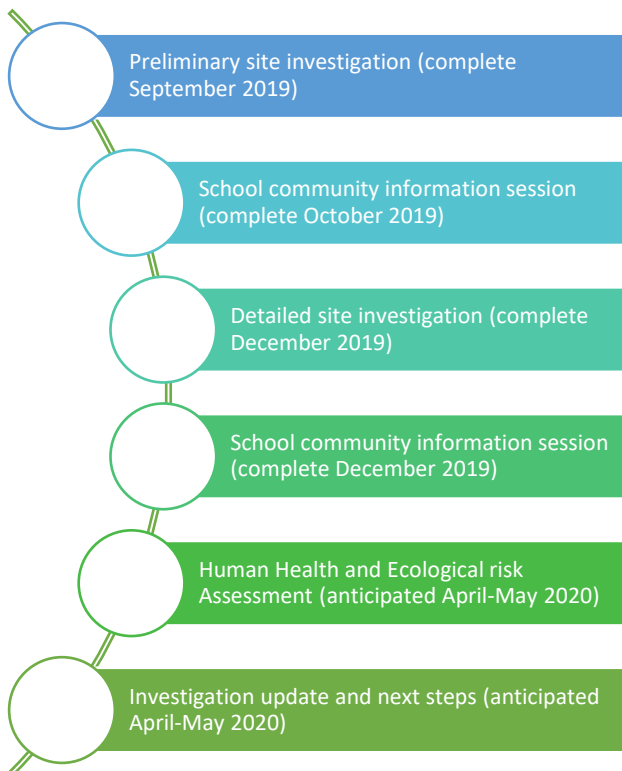


PFAS FACT SHEET TARRO INVESTIGATION PFAS Investigation and Management Activity Update

About the Investigation

In September 2019, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) commenced a detailed site investigation (DSI) into the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Primary School, Tarro, as a result of the historical use of legacy firefighting foams for training.

The environmental investigation has been conducted following the process below:



Summary of the DSI Findings

The DSI found:

- PFAS detections in soil, surface water (stormwater), and groundwater samples in the investigation area.
- A number of exposure pathways were assessed as being incomplete. This means that for these pathways (e.g. exposure of school users to groundwater or surface water) contamination is not connected to people or the environment and therefore does not pose a risk.
- Potential pathways by which PFAS might move through the environment include:

- From soil in the investigation area to groundwater or surface water (stormwater); and
- From surface water (stormwater) runoff into drains.

The DSI did not identify any elevated risk of exposure to PFAS to children, staff, and other people using OLOL Primary School from surface and near surface soils, surface water, tank water, produce, and groundwater.

A full copy of the DSI report and factsheets for the environmental investigation can be found on the FRNSW website at

<https://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/page.php?id=9322>

Investigation and management activities

Since January 2020, the following investigation and management activities have been completed.

Turfing - FRNSW re-grassed the bare areas on the playground in the investigation area in January 2020, prior to the commencement of the 2020 school year.



Figure: New Turf

Further testing - Sampling to support the further investigation into offsite migration of PFAS via surface water and groundwater was completed in January and February 2020. This involved:

- Additional testing of soils and surface water (stormwater) within the investigation area; and
- Testing of soils and surface water outside the investigation area (offsite).



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Next Steps

Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (anticipated April-May 2020)

While the DSI did not identify any current hazards at OLOL Primary School, a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) is being undertaken to inform whether remediation or management is needed for proposed future vegetable gardens, a school kitchen, and raising chickens on site.

Using the results from the further testing undertaken above, the HHERA will also consider any potential offsite risks to people and the environment. Understanding potential exposure risks will assist in developing ways to minimise offsite exposure to PFAS if and where necessary.

Management activities (post-HHERA)

On the recommendation of the NSW EPA, FRNSW looked into options to reduce PFAS concentrations in soils at OLOL Primary School. The primary objective was to review options to reduce the mass of PFAS present in soils in the investigation area, and therefore reduce the potential for offsite migration of PFAS via surface water (predominantly stormwater) and groundwater. A secondary objective was to consider potential future uses of the site.

Any necessary management activities implemented at OLOL Primary School will be informed by the results of further testing and the outcomes of the HHERA. Consequently, refinement of the management options, and final decision making on the necessary management activities, will follow the completion of the HHERA.

Another update to include findings and recommendations from the HHERA will be provided to the school community upon completion of this work.

PFAS Further Information

Further information about the FRNSW PFAS Investigation is available at www.fire.nsw.gov.au/pfas

Information on the PFAS Investigation Program being undertaken by the NSW EPA is available at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Mediainformation/pfasinvestigation.htm

Information on PFAS health effects and exposure pathways can be found on the Department of Health's website at <https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas.htm>

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