

Updated October 2018



Legacy PFAS Management at Moorabbin Airport

Moorabbin Airport is committed to delivering its Environment Strategy and complying with the Airports Act regime for environmental management and protection at the airport. This includes managing legacy environmental issues such as elevated per-and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (**PFAS**) levels from historical use at the airport.

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals previously used in firefighting foams and other industrial products. PFAS are persistent chemicals that do not break down easily. Historical use of products containing PFAS has resulted in elevated PFAS levels being found in soils, surface water and groundwater in most urban areas. PFAS are often concentrated at places like airports, due to this historical use of firefighting foams containing PFAS. While Moorabbin Airport understands that there is no conclusive evidence that exposure to PFAS causes adverse impacts to human health, research in this area is ongoing.

What is Moorabbin Airport doing about PFAS?

Moorabbin Airport has conducted initial testing of the elevated legacy PFAS levels at the airport and found that the PFAS levels in soil around the airport, while elevated, are below the screening levels for human health (industrial/commercial) as described in the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan.

Elevated legacy PFAS levels at Moorabbin Airport are the result of historical firefighting activities and training in relation to the general aviation aircraft operations at the airport. Firefighting foam used for these historical firefighting activities contained PFAS and occurred prior to the privatisation of the airport.

Further detailed testing is being carried out to better understand the elevated legacy PFAS issues, including on groundwater around the airport. We are also continuing to work with the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, Airservices Australia and other relevant authorities in relation to the environmental impacts of these elevated legacy PFAS levels. We will continue to work with all our stakeholders on the ongoing management of elevated PFAS levels.

Does Moorabbin Airport still use materials including PFAS?

Moorabbin Airport no longer uses firefighting foam containing PFAS.

For more information about PFAS visit:

[Department of Health Statements on Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances](#)

[Australian Health Protection Principal Committee Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) Fact Sheet](#)

[PFAS National Environmental Management Plan](#)

[Australian Government PFAS](#)

[EPA Victoria PFAS in Victoria](#)

[Airservices National PFAS Management Program](#)

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