

Legacy PFAS management at Moorabbin Airport

Moorabbin Airport Corporation (MAC) is committed to complying with the Airports Act regime for environmental management and protection at the airport. This includes managing legacy environmental issues such as per-and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) 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.

Legacy PFAS levels at Moorabbin Airport are the result of historical firefighting activities and training by Airservices Australia for general aviation aircraft operations at the airport. These activities occurred prior to the privatisation of the airport.

What action is the Government taking?

The Australian Government has committed \$130.5 million for a PFAS Airports Investigation Program at civilian airports where the Commonwealth historically provided firefighting services which used PFAS substances.

The program aims to determine the nature and extent of PFAS contamination at airports through independently audited whole-of-site testing, and to develop robust management plans to address any identified risks.

Sixteen airports, including Moorabbin Airport, are currently participating in the program to provide confidence to communities, businesses and industry that the potential environmental and human health risks associated with PFAS are being effectively monitored and managed.

For further information, see the Department's website [here](#)

What action is MAC taking?

In consultation with the Commonwealth, ASA and the Airport Environment Officer (AEO), MAC is actively monitoring, managing and overseeing remediation work for environmental matters at the airport, in accordance with relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks (including the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) 3.0).

As per regulatory arrangements and agreements, individual polluters are responsible for environment management and remediation at the airport site. ASA is currently undertaking targeted testing to identify and understand the scope and extent of any contamination that may have been caused by the use of PFAS by ASA and its predecessors. This activity is separate to the Commonwealth's PFAS Airports Investigation Program.

Are firefighting foam materials containing PFAS still being used on Moorabbin Airport?

No. Firefighting foam containing PFAS is no longer used on Moorabbin Airport.

For more information about PFAS visit:

[PFAS—Airports Investigation Program | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

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

[Airservices National PFAS Management Program](#)

[Australian Government PFAS](#)

[EPA Victoria - About PFAS](#)