

POLY FLUORO ALKYL SUBSTANCES

PFAS

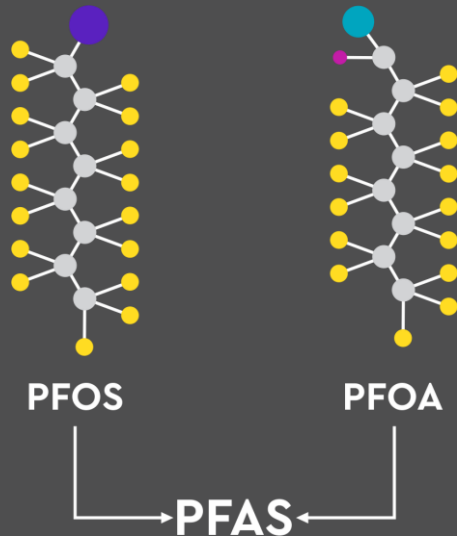
per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

PFOA – Perfluorooctanoic acid

PFOS – Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid

Group of man-made chemicals resistant to heat, water and oil

One of the strongest bonds known in chemistry, leads to environmental persistence and leads to bio-accumulation in humans.



Uses:

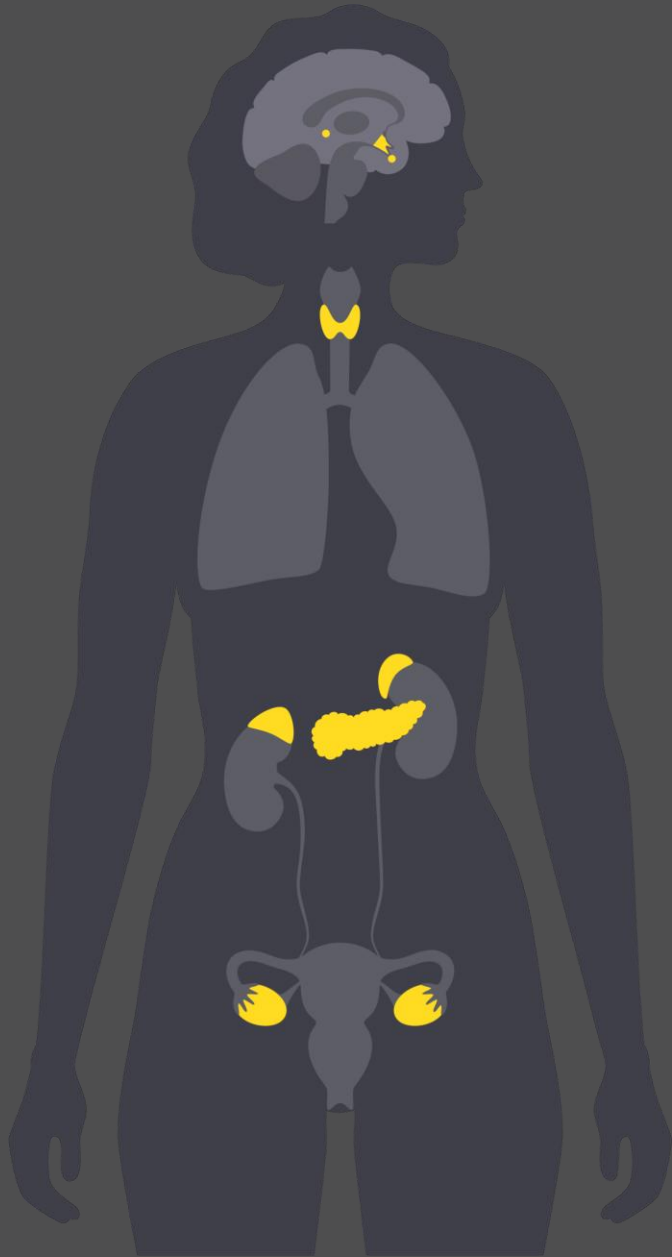
- Products that resist grease, water, and oil
- Non-stick cookware
- Food packaging
- Textiles and carpets
- Cosmetics
- Roofing materials
- Lubricants
- Adhesives
- Pesticides/herbicides
- Cleaning products
- Paints, varnishes, sealants, dyes and inks
- Metal electro-plating
- **Aqueous film forming foams (AFFF)**



What are the major drivers of PFAS contamination in Australia?

Historical use in Fire-fighting foams:

- PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) were historically used in fire-fighting foams
- Increased levels of PFAS have been detected at sites like:
 - Defence bases
 - Airports
 - Metro fire stations and training facilities
 - Rural fire stations and training facilities
 - Heavy industrial facilities
 - Sites with liquid-fuel fire suppression



POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

- Liver (cholesterol)
- Immunological (decreased vaccination response, asthma)
- Developmental (birth weight)
- Thyroid
- Reproductive (decreased fertility)
- Cardiovascular
- Insulin dysregulation
- Cancer (testicular, kidney)

PFAS INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

KEY STATISTICS

Properties connected to town water **378** 

149 rainwater tanks provided to **104** properties 

Community engagement events conducted **178** 

869 properties have water assistance extended from 6 to 8 years 

REMEDIATION

Excavated more than **80,000** tonnes of PFAS impacted soil 

Treated more than **50,000** tonnes of PFAS impacted soil 

 Installed 11 Water treatment plants

Treated over **10.5** billion litres of water 

FINANCIAL FACTS

 **\$706m** invested to manage, remediate and conduct research

▼ **INCLUDING** ▼
provided to **\$27m** other government agencies for research into health and remediation 

\$115.3m allocated in 2023-2024 to manage and remediate PFAS 

REMEDIAL WORKS

Remediation works targeting contaminated water, soil and other materials are finished or underway at Swartz Barracks, HMAS Cerberus, Jervis Bay Range Facility, and RAAF Bases Williamtown, Edinburgh, Richmond, Tindal, Darwin, Pearce and Townsville.

Further remediation works are scheduled to commence in 2024 at Swartz Barracks, Lavarack Barracks, HMAS Albatross, Jervis Bay Range Facility, and RAAF Bases Williamtown, Townsville, Edinburgh, Richmond, Darwin, Pearce, Wagga and Amberley.

RESEARCH FUNDING

- Defence has provided approximately \$26 million in funding for 21 research and technology programs to support PFAS investigation and remediation activities.
- Defence provided over \$27 million in additional funding to other government agencies to support PFAS-related health and remediation research.

COMPENSATION TO DATE

Recently The Australian government settled a class action over **PFAS contamination** from firefighting foam at seven sites across the country. Approximately **30,000 claimants** will receive **\$132.7 million** from the Commonwealth due to historic contamination of regional towns.

The affected sites include Wagga Wagga and Richmond in NSW, Wodonga in VIC, Darwin in the NT, Townsville in QLD, Edinburgh in SA and Bullsbrook in WA.

Additionally, there was a separate **\$22 million settlement** with the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community on the New South Wales south coast.

In 2020 the Australian Government settled a further claim for the Oakey QLD, Katherine NT and Williamtown NSW communities for a further **\$212.5 million** for loss and damage relating to property and business values