

PFAS

What are PFAS?

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are human-made chemicals that have been widely used in everyday products since the mid-1900s. They are resistant to heat, stains, grease, and water, so they were often used in items like non-stick cookware, firefighting foams, water-repelling fabrics, cleaning products, and personal care products. However, PFAS do not easily break down, so they can remain in the environment for a long time.

The NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), is investigating PFAS at certain sites across the state, listed on the EPA website. Importantly, no sites in the Griffith City Council drinking water catchment area are under investigation for PFAS.

How is Griffith City Council Responding?

In late October 2024, Griffith City Council took part in the NSW Health program to test for PFAS in drinking water. The test results, received in early November, showed a very low level of one type of PFAS called PFOS. This level was much lower than the limits set by current Australian drinking water guidelines and would still be under the proposed new limits.

Summary of the PFAS levels found compared to guidelines:

Substance	Results	Current Guideline	Proposed New Guideline
PFBS	< 1 ng/L	Not set	1000 ng/L
PFHxS	< 1 ng/L	70 ng/L	30 ng/L
PFOS	1 ng/L	70 ng/L	4 ng/L
PFOA	< 1 ng/L	560 ng/L	200 ng/L

Griffith City Council will continue to monitor the water with guidance from NSW Health.

For more information:

[WSAA FAQ PFAS Drinking Water Guidelines_0.pdf](#)

[The NSW Government PFAS Investigation Program](#)

[PFAS and drinking water - information and updates | NSW Government](#)

[NSW Government welcomes NHMRC proposed guidelines on drinking water and PFAS | NSW Government](#)

[Australian Drinking Water Guidelines - Public Consultation on Draft Guidance for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) - NHMRC consultation hub - Citizen Space](#)

For further information, contact Griffith City Council 1300 176 077.