

# What are PFAS?

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) of man-made chemicals used for decades in various industrial and consumer products, including nonstick cookware, firefighting foam, stain-resistant fabrics, and water-repellent materials.

PFAS are sometimes referred to as "forever chemicals" because they do not break down easily in the environment and may accumulate in people and animals over time.

*For more information about PFAS and health, please refer to the [NSW Health website](#).*



**Munmorah Power Station staff responding to a fire drill in 1991.**

GPM owns the former Munmorah Power Station site, where PFAS-containing foams were historically used in a firefighting training area, along with other industrial activities.

## Legacy of PFAS use

Since taking over the site in 2016, GPM has been actively working to manage and better understand this legacy contamination to ensure remediation efforts are focused on ensuring the best outcomes for the future safe use of the site.

## Our Commitment

*For more information about GPM's VPM, please refer to the [GPM website](#).*



In April 2024, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) declared the site significantly contaminated under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997 (NSW). This means we are required to follow certain rules under a formal plan approved by the EPA, called a Voluntary Management Proposal (VMP).

GPM is also taking action because we believe it's the right thing to do. We are fully committed to addressing on-site contamination and protecting the community and the environment.



# How we're taking action

GPM Staff sampling onsite (June 2025).

*At GPM, we're taking real steps to understand and manage the PFAS on-site. Here's what we're doing:*

## Investigating the Source

We have been undertaking extensive investigations and monitoring both on-site and in the surrounding areas. The good news is that, to date, no off-site contamination has been found at levels that would affect human health or recreational water use. Our ongoing monitoring focuses on building a clear picture of long-term trends, and we are assessing these results against applicable remediation guidelines to ensure potential impacts are well understood and properly managed. We are also carrying out a detailed study to better understand exactly where PFAS is coming from and how far it has spread (also called the “plume”). This helps us take the most effective action. We already know the source is linked to the former fire training area, located about 350 metres from the Hammond Canal, which intersects our site. While we continue to carefully map out the extent of the groundwater impacts, the main source area is now well understood and is largely contained in that location.

## Sharing Our Results

We hold an Environment Protection Licence (EPL 759) for our site and regularly publish monitoring data on our website so the community can stay informed.

## Building a Water Treatment Plant

To ensure long-term protection and to assist in future remediation efforts, we are building a dedicated water treatment plant to remove PFAS from affected groundwater and minimise the risk of migration. The water treatment plant is approved under Central Coast Council DA/1587/2023, and construction is already underway. The WTP is expected to be up and running on site by mid-2026. We are working in close consultation with both our consultants and the EPA to finalise a water discharge impact statement. The discharge from the WTP will be regularly monitored and reported under our site EPL to ensure approved discharge limits are satisfied.

## How We Are Keeping You Informed

- + Community consultation group every three months
- + Updates on our website [www.gpmco.com.au](http://www.gpmco.com.au)
- + Quarterly newsletter
- + Contact us at [info@gpmco.com.au](mailto:info@gpmco.com.au)
- + Community Information & Complaints Line at 1800 817 711

