

GPM acquires land with the source of PFAS at Munmorah

Munmorah, 11 April 2023; Generator Property Management Pty Ltd (GPM) has taken ownership of land from Snowy-Hydro within the former Munmorah Power Station site that includes the former firefighting training area that is the source of a PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) plume in the surrounding groundwater.

GPM is not the originator of these contamination issues; they are a result of long-term power station operation by the Electricity Commission NSW (ECNSW), Pacific Power and Delta Electricity.

GPM has been in discussion for some time with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), who have advised GPM that they intend to declare the original power station plant area of the site and the firefighting area as *significantly contaminated* under the Contaminated Land Management (CLM) Act. The date of this declaration is yet to be determined.

From the EPA website: *"Investigations have found PFAS onsite and at the end of the canals at the Colongra and Munmorah Power Stations, however, seafood from the Tuggerah Lakes system remains safe to eat. The detection of PFAS is not unexpected given the past use of PFAS-containing fire-fighting foams at the sites. PFAS has also been used in many domestic and industrial products and background levels may be present from these other sources."*

The transfer of land and the anticipated declaration by the EPA means that as GPM owns all the land that is believed to be the source of PFAS and potentially requires remediation as well as the land that contains the known hydrocarbon sources, GPM will now be responsible for investigating and potentially remediating these areas of contamination.

As the responsible landowner GPM will be obliged to either agree voluntarily to works required by the EPA or will receive orders from the EPA under the CLM Act to do so.

GPM has lodged a proposed plan for remediation of the hydrocarbon plumes with the EPA and will be adding investigating PFAS issues to the works on a voluntary basis for the EPA's consideration.

Additionally, GPM is initiating detailed investigations to establish the exact locations of PFAS sources and establishing the full extent of the PFAS plume.

GPM has already provided the EPA with an expert report on the effects of the PFAS on the local ecology on the site and in the canals and the two sets of information will be used to guide decisions on further actions. It is noted that the report has shown that water quality

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in the canals presents no human health risk and the effects on ecology are likely to be minimal.

With this in mind, GPM has lodged an application to construct a water treatment plant with Central Coast Council.

As part of its ongoing community engagement activities, GPM will continue to have open communication channels with the local community to keep them advised of any findings and seek their input into management or remediation strategies.

It is the aim of GPM to engage the best technologies and ecological specialists to be fully informed and assist with the ongoing discussion around the next steps.

GPM was responsible for the safe demolition of the former Munmorah Power Station and now continues to manage the accountable remediation of the site. This site involves over 700 hectares of surrounding land and infrastructure, including Lake Colongra.

To stay up to date with the latest developments from GPM, please bookmark their website: www.gpmco.com.au

* Source: Link -[EPA Website](#)