

October 2024

What is PFAS?

Per- and poly- fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) are manufactured chemicals used to make products resistant to heat, stains, grease and water.

PFAS have been used globally since the 1950s in many common household and industrial products, including non-stick cookware, food packaging, paints, toiletries, firefighting foams and stain and water repellents for carpets, fabric, furniture and clothing.

PFAS at Australian airports

The Australian Government historically used firefighting foams containing PFAS at up to 37 civilian airports across Australia, including Bankstown Airport and Camden Airport.

In 2003, Airservices Australia, the Government's air navigation service provider, commenced phasing out its use of legacy firefighting foam containing PFAS. In 2010, it ceased using fluorine containing foams and switched to fluorine free foam.

Health effects of PFAS

PFAS chemicals are persistent, have been shown to be toxic to some animals and can accumulate in the bodies of animals and people. However, the Government says there is limited evidence that exposure to PFAS causes adverse human health effects.

AMG has taken proactive steps to investigate PFAS levels and potential health effects, including testing of soil, groundwater and surface water at Bankstown Airport and Camden Airport.

In 2020, an independent Human Health & Environmental Risk Assessment, commissioned by AMG, found no risk issues of concern in relation to potential PFAS exposure for people working at either airport precinct.

PFAS Airports Investigation Program

AMG takes the treatment and management of PFAS contamination seriously and prioritises the health, safety and wellbeing of people using our precincts.

We volunteered to participate in the Government's PFAS Airports Investigation Program to enable additional testing and assessments at Bankstown Airport and Camden Airport. In total, 16 airports across Australia are participating in the program.

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

We are working with our customers to facilitate the Program, including sampling of soil, surface water and groundwater at our airport precincts.

Commitment to sustainability and the environment

Sustainability is a cornerstone in AMG's delivery of economic, environmental and social value to our customers, stakeholders and the broader community. Underpinning this is a commitment to operate in line with the highest ethical standards and be a responsible business, including in relation to historic contamination at our precincts.

We are compliant with our safety and environmental obligations, including management of known locations of PFAS, and consider these critical to our licence to operate.

Our risk-based approach to environmental management and broader approach to sustainability – including copies of our environment strategies, Sustainability Framework and Sustainability Reports – are available on our website [by clicking here](#).

For more information

[Click here to learn more](#) about the Australian Government's PFAS Airports Investigation Program.

If you have any queries for AMG, please contact us via info@aeria.co or 02 8709 9400.