

# A message from CS Energy



**21 October 2024**

This newsletter gives an update on CS Energy's PFAS monitoring program. It includes information about:

- an **upcoming community information day scheduled for 12 November**
- revision of **Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**
- the **Environmental Evaluation** submitted to the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation (DESI) earlier this year
- progress on the **Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA)**
- the next round of **groundwater bore sampling** on properties surrounding the Callide Power Station.

## Community information day

We are planning our next community information session, **set for 12 November 2024, 2pm to 7pm at Hotel Settlers.**

There is no presentation – simply drop in when it suits you.

We will be able to confirm if we are being joined by representatives from other departments closer to the information session.

If you have any questions about our PFAS monitoring program in the meantime, please call our Landholder Relations Manager, Tina Donovan on 0477 957 116 or PFAS Project Officer Sharon Geall on 0439 336 847.

## Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

Today the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) announced they are proposing new Australian Drinking Water Guidelines in relation to PFAS.

The proposed guidelines include that PFOS levels in drinking water are lowered from 0.07 µg per litre to 0.004 µg per litre. The measure of µg equals micrograms. That is a unit of mass equal to one millionth of a gram.

Note that the proposed guideline values are intended to reduce risks to health from PFAS in drinking water over a lifetime, not short periods of time.

The proposed guidelines are open for public consultation from 21 October to 21 November. We encourage anyone interested to visit the NHMRC website and take part in the public consultation process.

CS Energy remains committed to supporting landholders over drinking water guidelines with alternative drinking water. We will also continue to comply with any government guidelines.

If you have concerns or questions about your drinking water during the public consultation period, please contact us.

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For more information visit <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/news-centre/nhmrc-update-australian-drinking-water-guidelines> where several fact sheets about the review have been published.

## Environmental Evaluation

In July DESI accepted our response to their Environmental Evaluation, which required us to do sampling and investigation about PFAS around the Callide Power Station site. As part of our submission, we identified the following items that need to be completed or monitored on an ongoing basis:

- Developing a plan to manage PFAS entering the Callide Power Station site from the north
- Completing a HHERA (an update is below)
- Further minimising seepage at the eastern area of the Callide Power Station site.

We will also be doing more work on site at the power station to further improve PFAS recovery and minimise water leaving the site; cleaning sediment out of the northern stormwater pond; and improving seepage recovery at the Callide A site.

We will continue working with DESI to progress the above commitments and follow any directions they give us for ongoing PFAS monitoring and remediation.

## Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA)

A HHERA looks at specific risks to human health and the environment by looking at exposure pathways – such as drinking water, food and bathing. It takes a holistic approach to understand what the combined risk of each individual pathway is.

enRiskS, an independent toxicology risk assessment consultancy firm has been completing the assessment.

They will continue to finalise it over the coming months in light of the revised proposed Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

## Groundwater monitoring

Epic Environmental has completed the fourth round of landholder groundwater bore sampling and we have communicated the results to the landholders who participated. Overall, the results indicated a slight reduction of PFAS levels generally. While this is encouraging, we are still working on understanding PFAS movement so it is too early to indicate if this reduction will be an ongoing trend.

We plan to undertake our fifth round of landholder sampling in early 2025 and will be in touch with you closer to the time to arrange access to your property. We are also continuing our quarterly technical monitoring program on and around the Callide Power Station.

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## More information

How can I get more information?

You can phone **0477 957 116** and a member of the PFAS team will be available to take your call.

If you have any health concerns or questions, Queensland Health advises people to talk to their GP or call **13HEALTH** on **13 43 25 84**.

You can also call the Central Queensland Public Health Unit on **07 4920 6989**.

If you have questions about livestock or agriculture, we recommend speaking with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) on **13 25 23**.

Kind regards  
Sharon Geall  
PFAS Project Officer