

## Information about CS Energy PFAS testing – February 2021

CS Energy is informing the local community about the results of its voluntary environmental monitoring program to assess the potential impact of the historical use of PFAS at Callide Power Station.

### Test Results

We are taking a precautionary approach to managing our legacy use of PFAS and have volunteered to test for PFAS. An independent environmental consultant tested groundwater, surface water and soil samples across on and adjacent to the power station including at two locations further downstream along Callide Creek.

The tests found that at locations within and outside our site, there were levels of PFAS detected that were higher than the government guidelines for drinking water and species protection.

Results from one groundwater monitoring location approximately four kilometres from the power station (near the Linkes Road crossing) detected PFAS levels less than two times over the drinking water guideline, and requires CS Energy to work with Queensland Health.

While some results were above the government guidelines, they were significantly lower than at other sites in Queensland that had PFAS in their groundwater.

Experts are still working to fully understand PFAS. There is currently no consistent evidence that PFAS exposure causes adverse human health effects. Please see the Queensland Health fact sheet (link below) for more information.

As this is only one test, we need to do more monitoring and testing of water and soil samples from the surrounding catchment.

### What does this mean for you?

We have not tested on your property and if you use bore water for domestic purposes we would like to organise for an independent expert to take a water sample as soon as possible.

We asked Queensland Health if people should be drinking the groundwater and they said if you're worried don't drink the water as a precaution, until we get test results from your property. Their advice was you may wish to minimise exposure by:

- Not drinking the water or using it to prepare food
- Avoid consuming food products like fruit and veggies in your garden, eggs from your chickens, meat, fish, milk.
- Avoiding using the water for showers or baths and for sprinkler play or swimming.

And if you don't want to drink the water, and don't have an alternative source available, like a rain water tank, we will help where we can to provide you with drinking water (for domestic use), while we wait for the testing to take place. You can also get water from the standpipe in town any time.

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If your water tanks are filled with rainwater then you can continue to use the water. Queensland Health provides guidance on rainwater in their Safe Water on Rural Properties fact sheet found here:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/industry-environment/environment-land-water/water/quality/drinking>

### **What happens next?**

The testing may take up to six weeks. We use a specialised consultant as it is easy to contaminate a sample as PFAS is found in products used every day, and the PFAS levels in the samples are very low and close to the limit of detection.

Samples take time to be analysed by a laboratory and then they need to be interpreted by a specialist consultant - we understand it's really important to have testing done as soon as possible.

We will notify you, the Department of Environment and Science and Queensland Health when we receive the results.

### **How can I get more information?**

More information about PFAS is available at

<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/management/disasters/investigation-pfas/about>

You can contact **Brett Smith from Callide Power Station** for more information on the testing program. He can be contacted on **0419 726 550** or **bsmith@csenergy.com.au**

If you have any health concerns or questions, Queensland Health advises people to talk to their GP, Anyone concerned about their own health or that of family members should talk to their GP, the Central Queensland Public Health Unit (**Ph 07 4920 6989**) or call 13HEALTH (**13 43 25 84**).