

A message from CS Energy



NHMRC revised drinking water guidelines for PFAS

Good afternoon,

As previously shared, the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) for PFAS values were undergoing review and public consultation. I am writing to advise that the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has now announced its updates to the drinking water guidelines for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.

These changes follow the NHMRC's recent review of its PFAS guidance, which incorporated the latest scientific evidence and feedback received through public consultation.

A key change includes reducing the recommended health-based guideline value for the sum of PFOS and PFHxS from 0.07 micrograms (μg) per litre to separate values: 0.008 μg per litre for PFOS and 0.03 μg per litre for PFHxS.

The revised PFOS guideline value of 0.008 μg per litre is slightly higher than the 0.004 μg per litre that was originally proposed prior to the consultation period. See table 1 below.

PFAS	Previous ADWG	Current ADWG
PFOA	The concentration of PFOA in drinking water should not exceed 560 ng/L (0.56 $\mu\text{g/L}$).	The concentration of PFOA in drinking water should not exceed 200 ng/L (0.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$).
PFOS	The sum of the concentrations of PFOS and PFHxS in drinking water should not exceed 70 ng/L (0.07 $\mu\text{g/L}$).	The concentration of PFOS in drinking water should not exceed 8 ng/L (0.008 $\mu\text{g/L}$).
PFHxS		The concentration of PFHxS in drinking water should not exceed 30 ng/L (0.03 $\mu\text{g/L}$).
PFBS	No health-based guideline value defined.	Based on human health considerations, the concentration of PFBS in drinking water should not exceed 1000 ng/L (1 $\mu\text{g/L}$).
GenX chemicals	No health-based guideline value defined.	No health-based guideline value is considered necessary for GenX chemicals at this time.

Table 1: ADWG Recommendations for PFAS based on human health consideration
<https://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/environmental-health/australian-drinking-water-guidelines-2024-pfas/>

The NHMRC advises that these updated values are based on conservative, long-term assumptions to minimise PFAS exposure risk over a lifetime. They have emphasised that while the PFAS values have

been reduced, there are no immediate health risks associated with drinking water that meets the previous guideline levels.

You can find more information about the NHMRC's current advice on their website, www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-advice/environmental-health/water/PFAS-review.

Next Steps

While the NHMRC has updated its guidance, each State and Territory Government is responsible for adopting and implementing the new guidelines. CS Energy will continue to work with Queensland Government agencies to understand how these changes will be applied in Queensland and respond with care, transparency and scientific guidance.

We are committed to supporting landholders within our investigation zone who rely on their groundwater bores for domestic water, where PFAS levels are above the updated ADWG values. We will be contacting these landholders over the next week to discuss our next steps, which will include planning for alternative drinking water solutions based on the circumstances of individual households.

In the meantime, we know the guideline changes may raise questions or concerns. For all our landholders you can continue to contact Sharon Geall, Environment and Stakeholder Officer via mobile **0439 336 847** or email sgeall@csenergy.com.au and Tina Donavon, PFAS Landholder Engagement Manager via **0477 957 116** and tdonavon@csenergy.com.au.

A reminder you can find newsletters, maps and information on our website at: <https://www.csenergy.com.au/environment/pfas-monitoring/callide-pfas-monitoring>

Thank you

Sharon Geall

Environment and Stakeholder Officer



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powering your tomorrow.**
