

STATEMENT

9 November 2017

DRILLING PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PFAS DISTRIBUTION IN NORTH LAKE

Consultation has commenced with 29 households in North Lake to inform the occupiers about an upcoming drilling program to establish if there has been any migration of Perfluoroalkyl Substances (commonly called PFAS) from the IFAP site on Farrington Road.

Residents are being advised not to use bore water until a drilling, sampling and testing program is completed to establish if there is any PFAS in groundwater in their area. The drilling program is a precautionary measure to simply establish potential PFAS movement with greater accuracy.

PFAS was used as part of fire and emergency response training provided by third-party training providers at the Fire Training Ground on the IFAP site from the mid 1990s until December 2014. PFAS use ceased at that time when IFAP became aware that between 200 - 400 litres of liquid containing PFAS had entered the soil at the site. The event was reported by the training provider to DWER and investigations into the extent of PFAS in the groundwater commenced shortly thereafter.

Drilling, sampling and testing of 8 groundwater wells installed on the IFAP site has established that there is some detection of PFAS in groundwater on the site's western boundary, with one location returning a result that is slightly above regulatory guidelines. The groundwater table in this area is approximately 8 metres below the surface.

A drilling, sampling and testing program will start in the next few weeks to determine if PFAS has migrated beyond the western boundary. It is planned to install groundwater monitoring wells in targeted areas near the western boundary to enable environmental experts to collect water samples.

There is negligible risk of human exposure to PFAS while it remains contained well below ground level. Residents in the 29 households are being asked to confirm if they have any groundwater bores on their properties and, if so, they will be advised not to use them until the testing results are available. Samples may also be taken from household bores if their condition is suitable for testing.

Residents can contact the IFAP Support Team on 08 9333 9905 or info@ifap.asn.au if they have questions or require further information.

IFAP is working with an Independent Auditor and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), including liaising with the Department of Health, to plan and implement a drilling program and aims to have the results available by early January. Approvals will be sought from the City of Cockburn and other landowners as required, depending on the final location chosen for the sampling bores.

Further drilling may be required after the initial program to delineate the location of any PFAS that may be in the groundwater beyond the IFAP site.

Further information on PFAS can be found at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas.htm>

Note: Any of the above statements can be treated as quotes and attributed to Matt Hallinan, Chief Executive Officer, IFAP

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About IFAP

IFAP (Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention) is an independent, not-for-profit, member-based organisation governed by a Board of Directors. The organisation has been at the leading edge of workplace health and safety since 1962. IFAP is a training organisation that provides public and corporate courses. With two training centres located in Western Australia, IFAP trains and educates more than 16,000 people annually across a host of disciplines. It also offers integrated health and safety consulting services, information resources and safety products as well as organising industry networking events and conferences.

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