

PER- AND POLY-FLUORINATED SUBSTANCES



MARKET SECTORS



Defence



Government



Construction



Industrial



Property



Waste Management

WHAT CAN EPIC DO?

With the recent emergence of per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) as a global contaminant of concern, and growing community attention, the team at Epic Environmental has developed the skills and qualifications required to undertake sampling, monitoring, reporting and auditing for per- and polyfluorinated substances.

Epic has a proven track record of successful delivery of PFAS projects, including negotiation and interaction with regulatory authorities and other stakeholders.

ABOUT PFAS

Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) include a group of synthetic organofluorine compounds, which include compounds such as perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and fluorinated telomer sulfonates (i.e 6:2 FTS and 8:2 FTS). They are most commonly found in aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) used for firefighting purposes and aviation lubricants, but other uses include mist suppressants in metal plating, surfactants in the photographic industry, stain resistant carpets, flame-resistant and waterproof clothing, non-stick coating for cookware, and coating for paper and cardboard.

PFCs have permeated products globally for decades and have recently been identified as an emerging contaminant of concern due to their environmental persistence, bioaccumulate properties, high solubility and their ability to travel long distances in water and air.

Although AFFF containing PFAS compounds are now banned, with phasing out of existing stocks continuing, legacy impacts from historical activities are still being investigated.

With a team of highly skilled professionals and range of experience, Epic can work with you to determine the nature and extent of PFAS impacts at a site, and identify and implement the best available and most commercially viable outcomes for management and remediation.

ENGAGING EPIC

Epic has the necessary skills, experience and know-how to undertake sampling, monitoring, reporting and auditing for PFAS-related projects.

Epic specialises in both complex and routine projects. We provide the appropriate technical oversight and evaluation of the critical milestones to ensure the overall project objectives are achieved.

RESPONSE OF AUTHORITIES

Commonwealth, state and territory governments have responded to PFOS and PFOA contamination in different ways, with some states and organisations taking precautionary and proactive steps to address concerns regarding contamination, human health, and compensation. Others, such as Defence, have adopted a more guarded and reactive approach.

Below is some general information about the key areas of responsibility and actions taken, outlined by the federal Department of the Environment in collaboration with its Commonwealth and state and territory counterparts, as part of a whole-of-government response. Epic can assist you to understand the specific requirements and responsibilities for your project or organisation:

- **Health standards and measures:**

The Commonwealth Department of Health and relevant state and territory agencies have defined, and are continuing to review, appropriate health standards and measures associated with PFOS and PFOA contamination

- **Contamination on Commonwealth land:**

Commonwealth landowners, such as Defence, are responsible for investigating and managing potential contamination on their sites

- **Contamination on state and territory land:**

States and territories are primarily responsible for environmental protection and waste disposal where contamination or waste disposal occurs on state and territory land

- **Environmental protection regulation policy and standards:**

Environment and relevant state and territory agencies are considering appropriate standards and measures in association with PFOS and PFOA contamination. In addition, Commonwealth environmental assessment and approval processes will be required when any new action related to PFOS and PFOA is likely to have a significant impact on a nationally protected matter under Part 3 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, including on Commonwealth land. This includes actions that are likely to significantly impact the 'whole of the environment', but only in those instances where the actions affect, or are taken on, Commonwealth land, or are carried out by a Commonwealth agency.

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE

- Initial desktop and due diligence studies
- Preliminary environmental risk assessments
- Phase 1 preliminary site investigations
- Phase 2 detailed site investigations
- Remediation action plans and remediate planning
- Human health and environmental risk assessments and safety plans
- Contaminated land auditing (Qld and NSW)
- Environmental and compliance auditing

OUR EXPERIENCE

- **Fulton Hogan – Gold Coast Airport –** Management of PFAS-contaminated soil and groundwater, and management of 18-month dewatering program as part of the Gold Coast Airport Project LIFT.
- **Department of Transport and Main Roads – Bruce Highway CR2SM –** Management of PFAS-impacted materials during the detailed design and construction associated with the Bruce Highway Upgrade – Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway (CR2SM) Project.
- **Department of Defence –Townsville’s Lavarack Barracks –** Technical advisor and contaminated land auditing of detailed environmental assessment program, including a detailed human health and ecological risk assessment supported by comprehensive environmental sampling program.

