

# PFAS Drinking Water Report

## Broken Hill and Menindee

Sampling Date - 29 October 2024



# 1 Overview

In consultation with NSW Health, Essential Water has adopted the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) drinking water guidelines for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) of:

- less than 0.07 micrograms per litre for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS); and
- less than 0.56 micrograms per litre for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

Essential Water samples are tested by an independent laboratory, which uses a nationally accredited (NATA) testing method. The FSANZ guidelines were released by the Australia Government's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Brendan Murphy, following an extensive public health review.

## What is PFAS?

Per-and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of artificial chemical substances used in manufacturing and industrial applications. PFAS chemicals have been widely used to make everyday products stain-resistant, waterproof and/or nonstick. For example, PFAS has been used in the manufacture of products that:

- Keep food from sticking to cookware
- Make upholstered furniture, carpets and clothing resistant to soil, stains and water
- Make shoes, clothes and mattresses water resistant
- Keep food packaging from sticking to food
- Help fight fires at airfields and other places where petroleum-product-based fires are a risk.

They are emerging contaminants which Essential Water has tested for throughout their reticulation system.

## What is our aim?

Essential Water is committed to providing safe, secure, reliable, and high-quality water to our customers. As confirmed by recent testing, all water currently supplied by Essential Water complies with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) and remains safe to drink.

## More information

The following websites contain additional information regarding PFAS and drinking water.

- [PFAS and drinking water - information and updates | NSW Government](#)
- [Draft fact sheet on Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) | NHMRC](#)
- [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines - Public Consultation on Draft Guidance for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) - NHMRC consultation hub - Citizen Space](#)

## 2 PFAS Drinking Water Report for Broken Hill as of 29 October 2024

PFAS Chemical Tested	Units*	Existing ADWG Level	Draft Updated Level ADWG	Broken Hill Sample 1	Broken Hill Sample 2	Pass	Fail
PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid)	ng/L	560	200	0.2	0.4	100%	0
PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid)	ng/L	70	4	0.5	0.6	100%	0
PFBS (Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid)	ng/L	-	1000	<0.5	<0.5	100%	0
PFHxS (Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid)	ng/L	30	30	0.4	0.5	100%	0

\*Nanograms per litre = ng/L =  $1\text{g} \times 10^{-9}$

[https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific\\_committees/opinions\\_layman/en/phthalates-school-supplies/glossary/mno/mass-units.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/opinions_layman/en/phthalates-school-supplies/glossary/mno/mass-units.htm)

## 3 PFAS Drinking Water Report for Menindee as of 29 October 2024

PFAS Chemical Tested	Units*	Existing ADWG Level	Draft Updated Level ADWG	Menindee	Pass	Fail
PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid)	ng/L	560	200	0.1	100%	0
PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid)	ng/L	70	4	0.3	100%	0
PFBS (Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid)	ng/L	-	1000	<0.5	100%	0
PFHxS (Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid)	ng/L	30	30	0.7	100%	0

\*Nanograms per litre = ng/L =  $1\text{g} \times 10^{-9}$

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