



21 December 2016

MEDIA STATEMENT

Assessment of PFAS at Qenos Altona

Qenos operates an EPA Licenced Premise and as part of our commitment to manage those premises in accordance with the best environmental standards, we have recently completed an initial assessment of the usage and presence of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (or PFAS) at our Altona manufacturing sites. PFAS are commonly associated with firefighting foams, which are known to have been widely used in the past.

During the assessment of the Qenos sites at Altona, which was conducted by expert Environmental consultants, PFAS concentrations exceeded available national screening criteria.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria has been fully briefed on this initial assessment. Qenos will be conducting a full environmental and health risk assessment of PFAS by August 2017. Following Qenos briefing of the EPA, they have issued a Clean Up Notice to Qenos to complete the PFAS risk assessment, and to have a Clean Up Plan verified by an EPA appointed Environmental Auditor.

PFAS are a group of chemicals that include perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). They are also known as Perfluorinated Chemicals.

PFAS have been used in a range of common household products and speciality applications since the 1950's, including in Aqueous Film-Forming Foams (AFFF) that are typically used for fighting hydrocarbon fires. PFAS can build up and move through the environment and food chain, and accumulate at levels that may cause adverse effects to human and environmental health.

EPA Victoria is working collaboratively with other states to develop a national PFAS management framework to assess the impact of PFAS.

Further information on PFAS is attached to this Media Statement and can be found on line at:

<http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/publications/publication/2016/june/1611-1>

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/\\$File/PFAS-factsheet-15June2016.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/A12B57E41EC9F326CA257BF0001F9E7D/$File/PFAS-factsheet-15June2016.pdf)

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