



**SELECT COMMITTEE ON PFAS CONTAMINATION IN WATERWAYS AND DRINKING
WATER SUPPLIES THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES
Blue Mountains Community Hearing (3 February 2025)
Fire and Rescue NSW Response to Questions Taken On Notice**

Question Taken On Notice 1

How many incidents (from the mid-1980s to 2007) involved firefighting foam, along the Great Western Highway in the Blue Mountains.

Answer

- FRNSW records identify 3 incidents that involved firefighting foam between 1986 and 2007 on the Great Western Highway, Medlow Bath.

Question Taken On Notice 2

How many incidents (from the mid-1980s to 2007) involved firefighting foam, along the Great Western Highway in the Blue Mountains.

Answer

- Please refer to answer provided to question taken on notice 1.

Question Taken On Notice 3

What is the FRNSW blood testing program testing for? Is it for all PFAS within blood?

Answer

- The FRNSW PFAS Blood Testing Program will test for 28 PFAS Analytes, including PFOS and PFOA (known components of AFFF).

Question Taken On Notice 4

How many experts are available to provide PFAS remediation services? Who is competing with the NSW Government for these expert services?

Answer

- FRNSW has successfully procured remediation services via an open expression of interest process. The process resulted in several providers capable of providing the required services.
- FRNSW is not able to provide broader comment on the availability of remediation services.

Question Taken On Notice 5

What is the process for a firefighter to report their health concerns/conditions from PFAS exposure?
Does FRNSW keep data on these reports to track health implications across the agency?

Answer

- All injuries, illnesses, near misses or exposures are reported and recorded through an online system (or paper based prior to 2010). Monitoring of health risk and/or conditions is undertaken via the Health Screening program.

Question Taken On Notice 6

How many firefighters have requested PFAS blood testing?

Answer

- The PFAS blood testing program will commence in the coming months which will call for EOI from firefighters who wish to participate.

Question Taken On Notice 7

What research and guidelines on PFAS exposure is FRNSW currently using? (*other than the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines*).

Answer

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - *PFAS National Environment Management Plan 2.0*.
- National Environment Protection Council - *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure*. *The potential health impacts of PFAS will remain consistent regardless of exposure source (occupational or non-occupational)*. In accordance with this health guidance is taken from the relevant health authorities in our jurisdiction including state and federal health departments.
- FRNSW continues to monitor international publications for the latest peer reviewed research.