

Regional Training Campus Update



March 2016

Regional Training Campuses

Environmental Site Assessment work is underway across VEMTC Regional Training Campuses in Penshurst, Wangaratta, West Sale, Longerenong, Huntly and Bangholme. The work started in December at some locations and will finish later this month. The field work includes taking soil and water samples and installing narrow wells to take water samples from below the ground. The samples will be assessed for a range of chemicals and reports will be provided back to CFA that identify any impacts.

In addition, CFA has engaged ARUP who are specialist civil engineers, to assess CFA Training Infrastructure and recommend changes necessary to manage and treat training water so that training campuses continue to operate in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.

This information will be included in reports that will be provided to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to meet CFA Clean Up Notice requirements.

More importantly the information will help CFA with understanding where there is residue that needs to be cleaned up and what infrastructure changes we can put in place in the short term and the longer term. CFA has requested funding from State Government to enable the implementation of the water treatment/management infrastructure and civil works required at each site.

Penshurst

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in September 2015 issued CFA with a Clean Up Notice relating to the Penshurst Regional Training Campus.

A subsequent environmental Audit Report conducted at Penhurst was completed in December and has since been reviewed by the EPA.

The Auditor's Report is available on the EPA Website under [Environmental audit reports online](#).

The Audit relates to contamination caused by the use of the site as a live fire training facility, with the objective of the Audit being to assess significant short term environmental risks to

existing offsite groundwater uses and offsite surface water quality, posed by contaminated groundwater and surface water resulting from fire fighter training activities at the site.

The Audit has made 25 recommendations for further work requirements at the Peshurst site. CFA is developing a program of works to implement the recommendations from the report.

The audit found that whilst there are some off-site impacts, significant short term risks to people and livestock associated with these impacts is low. This finding is based upon current uses of water at properties nearby the Peshurst Training Centre.

Testing conducted by environmental consultants and the local water authority (Wannon Water) has confirmed that the Peshurst town water supply is not affected and is safe to drink.

Regular monitoring will continue to be conducted to provide ongoing confirmation that the Peshurst town water supply is not at risk.

A second audit, due to be completed on 30 June 2017, will consider risks of long term exposure, from all potential uses of water, including human consumption and uses of bore water that is not currently being extracted or used. The second audit will consider groundwater uses and surface water quality at the training facility and beyond.

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