



## Media Release

**24 August 2018**

### **Qenos Altona - PFAS Update**

As an EPA Licenced Premise, Qenos completed an initial assessment of the historical usage and presence of PFAS<sup>1</sup> at its Altona manufacturing sites in 2016.

Preliminary testing of soil and ground water identified PFAS concentrations exceeding EPA screening criteria both on and off Qenos's premises. All employees were briefed on these findings, along with EPA and members of the Altona Complex Neighbourhood Consultative Group (ACNCG) in December 2016.

Under an EPA Victoria Clean Up Notice, a PFAS assessment and Clean Up Plan was developed during 2017 by an EPA accredited auditor third party environmental specialist. EPA was regularly briefed during this process. The independent assessment did not identify any likely impact on people in our community.

The Clean Up Plan was finalised with EPA Victoria in July 2018 to manage environmental impacts to acceptable levels. The EPA then issued Qenos a further Clean Up Notice to implement the recommendations in the Clean Up Plan. Qenos is complying with the actions required by the Clean Up Plan, which includes providing regular progress reports to the EPA.

Qenos will present progress reports to the community using the ACNCG processes. The next meeting of the ACNCG is due in November, 2018.

<sup>1</sup> PFAS is a chemical that has 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. Qenos has used firefighting foams containing PFAS in the past.

For further information relating to PFAS, please refer to the attached link to the EPA website provides the EPA status on PFAS

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/land-and-groundwater/pfas-in-victoria>

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