

Graph: PFAS and the West Gate Tunnel Project



Environment
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The graph on page 2 shows the levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in the groundwater tested along the tunnel alignment section of the West Gate Tunnel Project (WGTP) are slightly elevated, compared with typical or 'background' levels found in other populated parts of Victoria.

These are very low levels, marginally above drinking water standards and below the accepted threshold for water we can safely swim in.

The graph also shows that water in areas we know to be polluted by historic use of firefighting foams are in the order of several thousand times higher than the readings recorded along the tunnel alignment.

For more information about the West Gate Tunnel Project see westgatetunnelproject.vic.gov.au

PFAS in the environment

There are low background levels of PFAS in the environment across Victoria and around Australia. Some sites have higher levels due to past use of PFAS, mainly in the form of firefighting foams, such as fire training facilities and defence sites.

Most of us are exposed to very low levels of PFAS in everyday life from common items including some non-stick cooking equipment, furniture and carpets treated for stain resistance, clothing and fast food or packaged food containers.

For more information about PFAS see epa.vic.gov.au/pfas



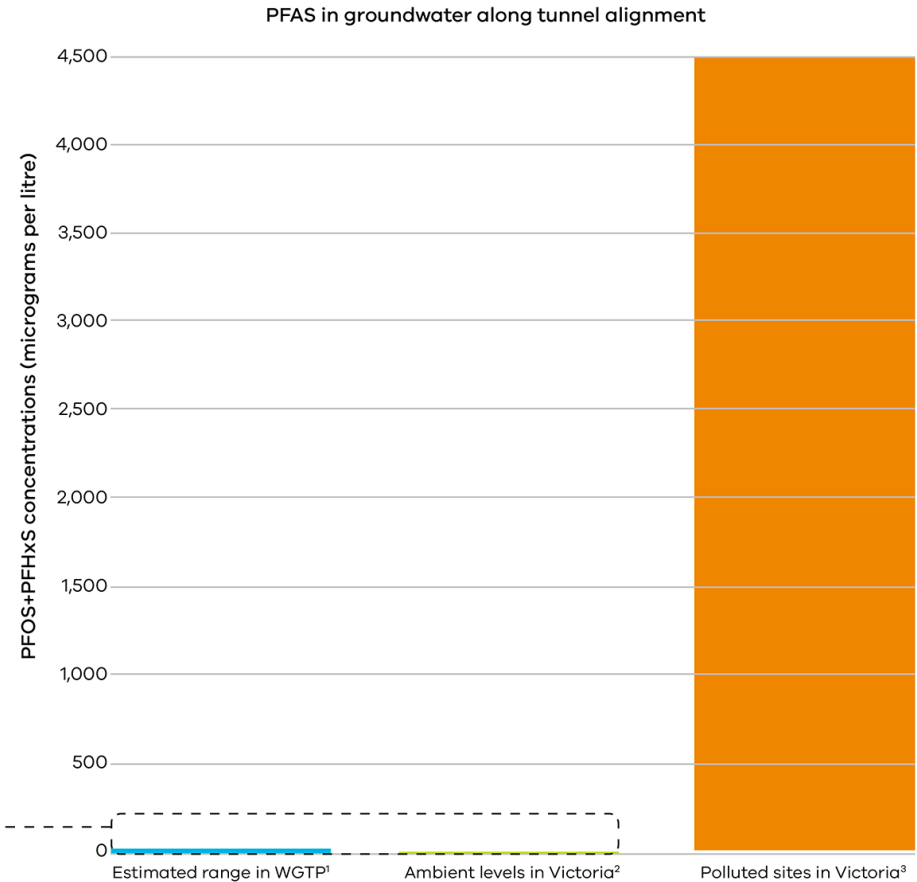
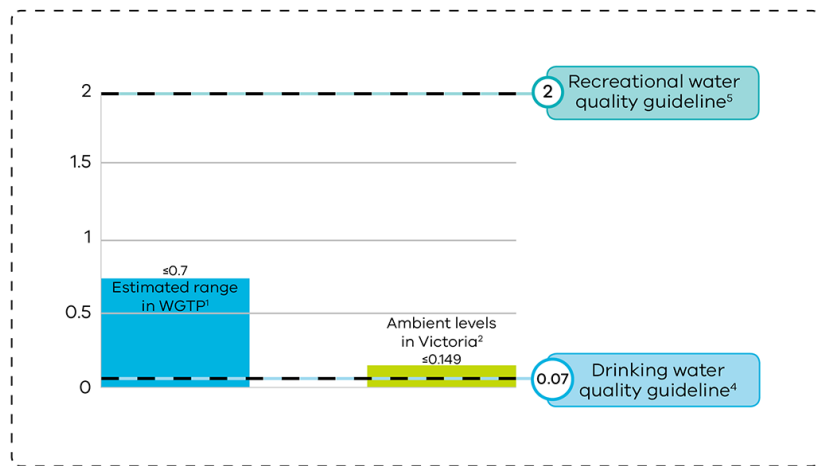
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Key:

1. Estimated WGTP perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) + perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) groundwater concentrations are a representative range along the tunnel alignment, sourced from results in reports provided by CPB/JH Joint Venture.
2. Common range represents concentrations based on EPA’s emerging contaminants ambient assessment surface waters sampling program conducted in Victoria in 2019/20.
3. Typical concentration range found at sites with known sources of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Victoria where PFAS compounds have been used. This data does not relate to a particular site but is based on publicly available data from Defence and Country Fire Authority (CFA) sites including CFA Fiskville.
4. PFOS + PFHxS drinking water quality guideline sourced from the Australian Government Department of Health 2019 guidance.
5. PFOS + PFHxS recreational water quality guideline sourced from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 2019 guidance.