



Rous County Council

PFAS chemicals are synthetic substances commonly found in various industrial and consumer applications due to their ability to resist heat, stains, grease, and water. Rous County Council has conducted testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) across all stages of its water supply system, including source water, treated water, and distribution samples. These tests are in alignment with the requirements of the [Australian Drinking Water Guidelines](#) (ADWG), which set limits for PFAS concentrations to ensure public safety. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHRMC) has stated that drinking water supplies that comply with the current ADWG are safe to drink.

Testing results from Rous utility confirm that PFAS levels in all tested samples are well within the current and proposed ADWG guideline values. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) affirms that drinking water supplies meeting the ADWG limits are safe to consume.

Rous remains committed to rigorous testing and ensuring compliance with all applicable standards, providing safe and high-quality drinking water to its community. To date, PFAS have not been detected in any water samples, including environmental samples.

Drinking water supplied by Rous to the Northern Rivers is 100% compliant with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines with respect to PFAS.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) testing result summary

Characteristic	Current ADWG value*	Proposed ADWG value*	Result	Meeting current ADWG value (%)
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	0.560 µg/L 560 ng/L	0.2 µg/L 200 ng/L	µg/L ng/L	100
Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	Sum of PFOS and PFHxS 0.07 µg/L 70 ng/L	0.004 µg/L 4 ng/L	µg/L ng/L	100
Perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)		0.03 µg/L 30 ng/L	µg/L ng/L	100
Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	No current guideline value	1 µg/L 1000 ng/L	µg/L ng/L	N/A

*Units: microgram per litre (µg/L), nanogram per litre (ng/L)