



# MEDIA STATEMENT

25 February 2016

## WASTE OIL REFINERY DISCONNECTED FROM SEWER NETWORK DUE TO PFOS/PFOA DISCHARGE

Hunter Water has temporarily suspended Australian Waste Oil Refineries' (AWOR) licence to discharge tradewaste into the sewer system due to the detection of wastewater containing perfluorinated compounds (PFOS/PFOA) in its discharge.

This detection of PFOS/ PFOA relates to Hunter Water's wastewater or sewerage system, and does not affect Hunter Water's drinking water supply.

An inspection by a Hunter Water employee on 12 February 2016 at the Rutherford site identified a potential tradewaste breach, leading to several wastewater samples being collected from the site, as well as from the downstream sewerage system.

Hunter Water received test results on 22 February showing positive detections for PFOS and PFOA in all samples, including from the Farley Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge point at Fishery Creek.

The AWOR wastewater sample showed 116ug/L of PFOS and 1.14ug/L of PFOA, while the Farley Wastewater Treatment Works discharge point sample showed 1.48ug/L of PFOS and 0.13ug/L of PFOA. Hunter Water advised the EPA of the test results on 22 February.

On 23 February 2016 Hunter Water met with AWOR to advise its sewerage service was now suspended until it could comply with its tradewaste agreement and demonstrate controls to keep PFOS/PFOA from entering the sewerage system. This action is a first for Hunter Water and reflects the seriousness of the non-compliance.

Hunter Water has requested a large amount of information from the owners of AWOR, including the location and identity of the organisation that supplied for the PFOS/PFOA contaminated waste.

Hunter Water is working with the EPA to investigate the issue.

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