

Warialda Public School

Community update | 2 May 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

Bore water testing was recently provided by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in partnership with Gwydir Shire Council to properties in Warialda for PFAS including Warialda Public School.

PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) are man-made chemicals that have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the mid-1900s.

The EPA's sampling team collected bore water samples from properties in Warialda that opted into the free testing from 8 April to 10 April 2025. Samples were tested for PFAS.

The Department of Education was notified by the EPA on 29 April 2025 that the sample collected from Warialda Public School had PFAS results above the current Australian Drinking Water Guidelines. This water is not used for drinking.

Bore water is only used for watering gardens and lawns at Warialda Public School. The school's drinking and handwashing facilities are connected to town water and this water remains available to drink and use. The department was advised the bore water can continue to be used for watering ornamental gardens and lawns.

The bore water outlets at the school have signage advising that they are not drinkable. The department will complete an inspection of these outlets and reinstate signage if required.

Operations at the school have not been affected.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority.

More information on PFAS is available through the [NSW Government PFAS webpage](#). The EPA will also host a local drop-in session for those who have questions or concerns. Details below:

Date: Tuesday 13 May

Time: 10 am-12 pm

Location: The Warialda Council Chambers, 54 Hope Street, Warialda.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

