Defence is continuing its detailed environmental investigation to understand the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on, and surrounding, Robertson Barracks.

The first phase of the investigation was a review of historical use and storage of PFAS products at Robertson Barracks, which was completed in September 2017. The findings identified potential PFAS sources and migration pathways which were used as the basis for the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) which is currently underway.

The DSI is being conducted in two parts to reflect the Northern Territory’s dry and wet weather conditions. The dry season DSI work is now complete; the wet season work continues.

Both parts involve on-and off-base collection, sampling and testing of:

- groundwater samples;
- soil samples;
- surface water samples; and
- sediment samples.

**Sampling completed**

![Sample counts diagram](image)

- **154** Soil samples
- **118** Surface water samples
- **179** Sediment samples
- **103** Groundwater samples from below

**TOTAL 613 samples**

Although wet weather and the recent cyclone season has restricted access to some areas off Robertson Barracks and delayed some sampling. Work is continuing with the final DSI report expected to be published in May 2018.

Also underway is the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) for Robertson Barracks that started in February this year. This assessment will provide a better understanding of any potential PFAS exposure risks to the environment and people and will then be used to develop a plan to manage any potential risks identified.

The investigation takes into account the recently released Heads of Environmental Protection Agencies Australia and New Zealand (HEPA) PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP) (2018).

The results of both these studies will be shared in a community information session planned for mid 2018.

### Investigation Area

The total investigation area is **1,603 hectares**.

![Investigation area map](image)
Water Use Survey

A voluntary Water Use Survey was launched in September 2017 to find out more about water use and supply near Robertson Barracks. This survey is now closed, and the information collected from this survey was used to refine the sampling activities conducted as part of the DSI. You can contact the Robertson Barracks Project Team if you have any questions about the survey.

Next Steps

The DSI and HHERA results will be discussed at the next community information session which is currently planned for mid 2018, subject to completion of wet season sampling. This event will be advertised in the NT News and published on the project website. Please keep an eye out for it and attend if you can.

Useful Contacts

Robertson Barracks PFAS Project Team

www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Robertson/PFASDefenceCoordination@golder.com.au
1800 365 414

Media enquiries
(02) 6127 1999
media@defence.gov.au

Department of Health PFAS

Defence recognises that it is not an authority on public health. For more information on health based guidance values for PFAS:

1800 941 180

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NTEPA)

For more information about PFAS and the environment:

1800 064 567

Northern Territory Power and Water Corporation

For more information about Darwin town water supply:

1800 245 092