

**Questions:**

I've got this info off your website and wanted to check it is accurate. In some of the PSI there is limited information about on site detections of PFAS. I have also included the Stokes Hill Naval Facility as a site where PFAS has been detected on site.

<b>SITE</b>	<b>CONFIRMED ON-SITE DETECTION OF PFAS</b>	<b>CONFIRMED OFF-SITE DETECTION OF PFAS</b>
Bandianda Military Area, Albury/Wodonga	Yes - but note onsite sample results in PSI are limited	Yes - Defence doing detailed investigation
HMAS Cerebus, Mornington Peninsula	Unclear - no onsite samples listed in PSI	Yes - Defence doing detailed investigation
RAAF Base, East Sale	Yes	Yes - detailed investigation finished, further investigations being undertaken
RAAF Base, Williamtown	Yes	Yes
HMAS Albatross	Yes	Detailed investigations underway
Holsworthy Barracks	Yes	Detailed investigations underway
RAAF Base Richmond	Yes	Detailed investigations underway
RAAF Base Wagga	Yes	Detailed investigations underway
Oakey Army Aviation Centre	Yes	Yes
Townsville RAAF Base	Yes	Unclear - detailed site investigation underway
Amberly RAAF Base	Yes	Yes
RAAF Base Tindal	Yes	Yes - Defence undertaking detailed site investigation
RAAF Base Darwin (same location as Darwin Airport)	Yes	Yes - Defence undertaking detailed site investigation
Robertson Barracks	Yes	Yes - Defence undertaking detailed site investigation
RAAF Base Pearce, Bullsbrook	Unclear from PSI but assumed	Yes - detailed investigation underway
HMAS Stirling (Garden Island)	Yes	Unclear - note, this base is on an island. Defence doing detailed investigation.
RAAF Base Edinburgh	Yes	Unclear - some detections but low - investigation underway
Jervis Bay Range Facility/HMAS Creswell, Jervis Bay Territory	Yes	Detailed investigation into Jervis Bay Range Facility will include HMAS Creswell
Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation, Darwin	Yes	Unclear - Defence is conducting initial assessments to address gaps in current information to determine whether Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation requires a detailed environmental investigation

## Response:

Please see the following clarifications regarding the table provided:

- Currently, there have been no confirmed off-site PFAS detections at RAAF Base Townsville and HMAS Stirling.
- PFAS has been detected on-Base at RAAF Base Pearce.
- There have been no confirmed on-site PFAS detections at HMAS Cerberus. No on-site sampling was conducted as part of the Preliminary Sampling Program (PSP).
- Sampling on and in the surrounding area of RAAF Base Edinburgh has detected levels of PFAS. Further information can be found at:  
[http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Docs/Edinburgh/FactSheets/170323\\_Edinburgh\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Docs/Edinburgh/FactSheets/170323_Edinburgh_Factsheet.pdf)
- A detailed environmental investigation as part of the National PFAS Investigation and Management Program has not commenced at Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation. In 2013, routine groundwater monitoring at Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation detected the presence of PFAS on the property. The Stokes Hill Naval Fuel Installation ceased operations in 2014 and is surplus to Defence requirements. Defence is working with the Northern Territory Government to progress due diligence requirements to inform the future sale of the property which will consider the presence of PFAS.

### Additional Information

Defence has been proactive in initiating an environmental program to investigate the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), on and around Defence sites in Australia.

Currently, Defence is conducting one of the largest environmental investigations with detailed environmental investigations commenced at 21 sites across Australia. This includes the recently commenced investigations at Naval Communications Station Harold E Holt A, Naval Communications Station Harold E Holt B and RAAF Base Learmonth.

In addition, investigations will commence next week at Lavarack Barracks and Gingin Satellite Airfield. A Community Walk-in Session was held at Lavarack Barracks on Thursday 5 October to provide the community with an opportunity to find out more about the commencement of the detailed environmental investigation and ask questions one-on-one with Defence representatives.

In 2016, the Preliminary Sampling Program (PSP) was conducted at 12 sites across Australia to understand if PFAS are present on, or in the vicinity of the property. The PSP report is available on the Defence website at  
<http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Publications/reports.asp>

The detailed environmental investigations involve a more comprehensive sampling plan for both on- and off-site. The Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) is the first stage of the detailed environmental investigation and involves a review of legacy firefighting foam use and storage to identify where and when legacy firefighting foam was used (sources), how PFAS moves in the environment (migration pathways) and people, animals and the environment that may be exposed to PFAS (receptors).

The PSI findings are then used to develop a sampling plan outlining the proposed sampling and testing to occur on and in the vicinity of the sites as part of the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI). Further information of the stages of the detailed environmental investigations can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/InvestigationProcess.asp>