

Questions:

I wanted to clarify according to the Defence PFAS website there are 20 investigation sites around Australia.

But this document from the 21 September 2017 lists 22 (slide 6):

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/HaroldEHolt/Presentations/20170921HEHLearmonthPresentation.pdf>

“Defence is currently conducting detailed environmental investigations at 22 Defence properties around Australia.”

Specifically with 6 not 4 sites in WA. Can you please confirm which is correct and detail the additional 2 sites in WA that are under investigation?

Response:

Defence is conducting one of the largest environmental investigations in Australia. Detailed environmental investigations are underway 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.

Defence will shortly commence investigations at additional sites, Lavarack Barracks (QLD) and Gingin Satellite Airfield (WA), which will increase the total number of investigations being conducted to 23 sites.

Please see the following updates regarding the lists provided:

Confirmed off-site detections of PFAS

- There have been confirmed off-site PFAS detections at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Unconfirmed off-site detections of PFAS

- Currently, there have been no confirmed off-site PFAS detections at RAAF Base Townsville and HMAS Stirling.

Confirmed on-site detections of PFAS

- There have been confirmed on-site PFAS detections at RAAF Base Darwin, RAAF Base Tindal and RAAF Base Pearce.

Confirmed on-site detections of PFAS

There have been no confirmed on-site PFAS detections at HMAS Cerberus.