

Questions

1. **Why have defence commenced investigations at Naval Communications Station Harold E Holt A, Naval Communications Station Harold E Holt B and RAAF Base Learmonth and now Lavarack Barracks (QLD) and Gingin Satellite Airfield (WA)?**
2. **Has PFAS been detected on and/or off site at those locations?**
3. **Has any PFAS been detected on-site at RAAF base Richmond?**
4. **With HMAS Cerberus this document mentions "isolated contamination has been found in the soil around a fire training area." Is that not PFAS contamination?**

http://www.defence.gov.au/id/_Master/docs/NCRP/VIC/0066HMASCerberusVic.pdf

5. **How many properties is Defence delivering water to in Katherine? I have read that it is over 50 but want to confirm.**

Response to all

As part of the National PFAS Investigation and Management Program, Defence is continuously reviewing the historical use of legacy firefighting foam across the Defence Estate.

Based on these reviews, Defence has determined that detailed environmental investigations should be conducted at Naval Communication Station Harold E Holt Areas A & B, RAAF Base Learmonth, Lavarack Barracks and Gingin Satellite Airfield.

In the 2016 Preliminary Sampling Program at RAAF Base Richmond, sampling was conducted off-site which resulted in the determination that a detailed environmental investigation will be undertaken. The investigation commenced in May 2017 and includes on-site sampling that has detected PFAS at RAAF Base Richmond.

The document referring to HMAS Cerberus above refers to fuel contamination, rather than PFAS contamination, in the soil around a fire training area, as a result of waste oil being sprayed on roads for dust suppression at HMAS Cerberus. The detailed environmental investigation currently underway at HMAS Cerberus will involve on-site sampling of PFAS.

Defence is committed to engaging with local communities throughout the PFAS investigations. Once finalised, all findings from the detailed environmental investigations will be reported to the relevant government agencies, regulatory bodies and the local community.

As at 5 October 2017, Defence is providing alternative drinking water to 51 properties in the Katherine region.