

**Questions:**

- I have some queries regarding Curtin airbase and the use of toxic foam.
- Has Curtin airbase used this chemical in the past at Curtin Airbase?
- If so, how often and under what circumstances has it been used?
- How was the toxic foam dispensed?
- Have the people working there at the time been advised?
- Have the Shire of Derby West Kimberley been advised?
- What, if any steps are being taken to address the situation?
- Have tests on local drinking water been undertaken?
- What were the results of these tests?

**Response:**

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

After a review of historical legacy firefighting foam use across the Defence Estate, Defence has determined there is a low risk of significant PFAS contamination issues at RAAF Base Curtin or surrounding properties. As a result, a detailed environmental investigation into PFAS is not required at the Base at this time.

However, Defence will continue to assess potential risks associated with PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Curtin, including through routine water quality monitoring. The investigations are a result of the historical use of legacy firefighting foam that contained the specific types of PFAS, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), as active ingredients. In 2004, Defence commenced phasing out its use of legacy firefighting foam containing PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients. The firefighting foam now used by Defence is a more environmentally friendly product that does not contain PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients.

Defence is committed to engaging with the relevant authorities and local communities with respect to PFAS investigation and will engage with the community if further investigations into PFAS at RAAF Base Curtin on any further information on the possible presence of PFAS.