

**Response provided to journalist
20 December 2018**

Question:

I was just wondering if you could clarify the total amount of money spent on remediation of PFAS contamination at Defence bases in Australia so far?

Response:

Defence is pioneering treatment approaches to manage and reduce the impact of PFAS contamination within the environment.

Due to the chemical structure of PFAS and the emerging nature of these substances as contaminants, there are limited proven remediation technologies available. As Defence is committed to the effective management of PFAS, we are continuously engaging with industry experts both nationally and internationally to identify the best PFAS treatment options available.

Since 2016, Defence has committed approximately \$100 million in funds to reduce the mass of PFAS in the environment and mitigate the migration and impact of PFAS originating from Defence properties. Defence is doing this through remediation projects including water treatment plants, source area soil excavation and soil treatment, as well as on-base drain maintenance. The current commitments for remediation activities are currently programmed to continue until 2021.

Management approaches vary by site depending on community water use, the spread of PFAS and the current technological options available for management. Defence will continue to partner with remediation technology providers to implement effective PFAS remediation solutions.