

Response provided to journalist  
14 July 2018

**Question**

The Australian is conducting research for an article on Defence's disposal of PFAS contaminated waste from military bases around Australia.

1/ Can Defence please detail where and how it has been disposing of PFOA and PFOS waste from all the bases named on Defence's website for PFAS Investigation and Management Program over the last two years - see link below

<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/contacts.asp>

2/ Is Defence aware of any regulatory action being taken in relation to waste originating from it's bases (other than the action currently underway in connection with Amberley and Nugrow) and if so can you please provide details?

**Response**

In the event that PFAS contaminated waste is encountered on a Defence base, it is managed in accordance with National guidelines, and, where they exist, State/Territory legislative requirements. This includes contaminated waste encountered during investigation or management activities as part of the PFAS Investigation and Management Program, during facilities and infrastructure project works, and through routine waste management on bases.

Management of waste can include repurposing waste that is below the relevant guidelines in projects on-base, treating the waste on-base, stockpiling on-base to prevent leaching, or disposal at a licenced facility.

Defence is not aware of regulatory action being taken against it in relation to the disposal of PFAS contaminated waste from its bases.