

Questions:

1. We are aware that a large amount of soil, water and sludge was removed from Oakey air base as part of the Singapore facilities upgrade and we ask where was this material sent to for disposal and what process was going to be used in the disposal?

2. We have also been told that water contaminated with PFAS related substances was taken from an Oakey Resident's water tank last year. The resident was told by the contractors removing the water that it was going to Gladstone. Can Defence please detail exactly what facility was receiving this material at Gladstone and how was it going to be treated?

Response:

As part of the Singaporean Facilities Project, soil was transported from the Oakey Army Aviation Base to appropriately licensed facilities by the Managing Contractor of the Project. Defence is not aware of water or sludge being removed from Oakey Army Aviation Base during construction for the Singapore Project.

Defence is committed to reducing the exposure pathways from PFAS to affected communities. As an action to reduce PFAS exposure, rainwater tanks and a swimming pool within the Oakey Investigation Area were emptied, cleaned and re-filled. The pumped out water was collected in early 2017 by Veolia, a contractor licensed to manage liquid waste, and transported to the Base for discharge into a liquid waste tank or directly transported to a licensed waste facility in Gladstone. The liquid waste tank located on-base is periodically emptied with the liquid waste transported to a licensed waste facility.

The contractors for both projects complied with the relevant environmental standards in relation to the management and disposal of PFAS contaminated material.