

Response provided to journalist
13 June 2018

Question

I am hoping to confirm some below details about Amberley RAAF base and Nugrow:

1. Can you confirm if water contaminated with toxic fire fighting chemicals was taken from Amberley RAAF base?
2. If so, how much and between which dates?

Feel free to add anything else you feel is relevant.

Response to all

Under major capital facilities project, AIR8000 Ph 2 Battlefield Airlifter Project, NuGrow began treating PFAS contaminated water at its Swanbank Facility on 28 March 17. In early April 2017, Queensland Department of Environment and Science changed the licensing requirements for all treatment facilities in Queensland. NuGrow ceased treating PFAS contaminated water on 7 April 17 following directions from Defence. Records indicate Nugrow disposed of 940,000 litres during this period.

Defence noted that no Queensland facility was licensed to accept PFAS waste water at that time.

The project established its own on-Base Water Treatment Plant and began treating PFAS-contaminated water on 24 April 17. Three plants have been established to conduct treatment activities.