

**Response provided to journalist
16 April 2019**

Question:

I would like to check in on the progress of the Oakey, Queensland defence force base building of a PFAS water treatment plant. I understand it may have been completed.

I would like the latest update on this and if there's a department media release about it.

It would be great to briefly chat more about this, so feel free to give me a call on the mobile number below.

Response:

Defence currently has two water treatment plants installed at Army Aviation Centre Oakey.

The first water treatment plant has been in operation since September 2017, treating groundwater near the former fire station area. This area was identified as one of the major PFAS source areas on the base during the environmental investigation into PFAS. The plant works by extracting groundwater from the aquifer below the plant, treating it using ion exchange resin and then re-injecting the water. As of 10 April 2019, 51 million litres of water have been treated by this plant.

In late 2018, a second water treatment plant was established to treat groundwater near the current fire training facility, another of the major PFAS source areas. The plant was installed during the first quarter of 2019 and is currently in the early stages of its commissioning process, expected to be completed by June 2019. This plant uses foam fractionation/separation technology which involves generating foam from affected groundwater. The foam, containing PFAS, is then collected from the surface and removed to a treatment facility.

Further information about the Former Fire Station Water Treatment Plant, including a video explaining the ion exchange technology, is available on the Oakey PFAS investigation website:

www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/oakey/managementactivities.asp