

**Response provided to journalist
16 April 2019**

Question:

We're doing a story on the new waste water treatment plant that will commence operation in Oakey this month. OPEC systems have developed technology to process up to 250,000 litres of PFAS contaminated groundwater per day. We believe the treatment plant is on the defence base. Just hoping to get permission to access the base to film vision if possible? Also wondering if anyone might be available for an interview?

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