

**Response provided to journalist  
6 February 2019**

**Question**

I understand PFAS contamination has been identified at the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing in organic materials supplied by a composting business; and that Qld Transport and Main Roads has been tasked with removing the contaminated material, following testing.

I understand some materials used in the landscaping part of the project originated from NuGrow – which won work on the project (see below).

*“The task was to raise levels surrounding the catch and bench drains to enable water flow. With difficult access issues, our team had to blow compost for more than 100m. <https://nugrow.com.au/growganics/>”*

It has already been established that PFAS contaminated water was brought onto the NuGrow site and the business was issued an Environment Protection Order in July last year in relation to contaminated water (subject to court action: contaminated water came from RAAF Amberley Base).

Can you please tell me;

Is the Defence Department investigating?

When were the soil tests conducted and was the Defence Department made aware of the results?

Can you share the results?

What action, if any, will Defence take on this particular matter?

**Response**

Defence is not involved in the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing works.

Defence and Defence contractors disposed of PFAS contaminated material from Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley at NuGrow facilities in accordance with the national and state guidelines applicable at the time.