

**Response Provided to Journalist
28 March 2019**

Question:

Why has Defence decided to compensate in this case, but not the thousands of others?

Why has it taken this long for Defence to make its first offer of compensation, given two Senate inquiries have both recommended landowners be compensated?

Response:

The Commonwealth has reached a settlement agreement with a party that claimed compensation for losses connected to PFAS-related issues. The claim was not litigated. The parties have agreed not to publicly disclose the terms of the settlement and the Commonwealth is bound to honour this agreement.

The settled claim, and all claims received that are connected to PFAS-related issues, are being handled in accordance with the Attorney-General's *Legal Services Directions 2017* (Cth).

It is open to any person or business that considers it has suffered a loss or damage connected to a PFAS-related issue to deal directly with the Commonwealth. It is not required that a person litigate a claim.

As at 27 March 2019, Defence Legal has received 46 non-litigated claims. It is not appropriate for Defence to publicly discuss individual claims.

Three litigated class actions have commenced against the Commonwealth of Australia in the Federal Court of Australia, and one litigated claim has commenced in the Supreme Court of Queensland. As these matters are before the Court, it would not be appropriate to comment further.

Defence is working continuously towards the effective monitoring and management of PFAS contamination and continues to engage with industry experts both nationally and internationally to identify the best management options for PFAS throughout Australia.

Defence is committed to responsible environmental management and will continue to engage with local communities on the investigation and management of PFAS contamination at and around affected sites.