



RAAF Base Tindal – Katherine Town Water and Interim PFAS Water Treatment Plant Update PFAS Investigation and Management Program

Katherine town water update

The town water supply remains safe to drink as advised by the NT Department of Health and Power and Water. The provision of the interim PFAS water treatment plant is a precautionary measure.

Earlier in 2017, routine testing by the Power and Water identified a small number of instances where levels of PFAS in the town water supply exceeded the Health Based Guidance Values. In response to this, an interim water treatment plant was commissioned to remove PFAS from the impacted bore. The Interim PFAS water treatment plant is now fully operational and producing 1 million litres of treated bore water per day with undetectable levels of PFAS.

The plant arrived in Australia in September 2017 and commenced treating water at the start of November 2017.

NT and federal health authorities have confirmed that the Katherine town water is safe to drink and that there is minimal risk to human health posed by short-term exceedances of the tolerable daily intake for drinking water.

Water conservation measures recently implemented by the NT Government remain in place. The water conservation measures implemented by the NT Government will directly reduce the reliance on PFAS impacted bore water.

Interim PFAS Water Treatment Plant update

Defence engaged a water treatment specialist company, ECT2, to provide Katherine with a water treatment plant that filters water to remove PFAS.

The interim PFAS water treatment plant filters the PFAS impacted bore water, removing PFAS before entering the prime water treatment plant. Once the bore water enters Power and Water's water treatment plant it undergoes the

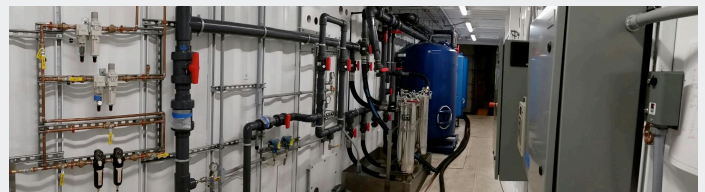
normal disinfection process and is mixed with the Katherine River water.

The interim PFAS water treatment plant uses leading edge technology.

It uses Ion Exchange (IEX) Resin to remove PFAS from water. Details on the treatment and technology can be found on the ECT2 website (www.ect2.com).

Smaller treatment plants of the same technology are in operation at RAAF Base Williamtown and Army Aviation Centre Oakey, and have reduced PFAS content in water to below Limit of Reporting (LOR) levels. The LOR levels are below the FSANZ drinking water screening criteria. For more information and detailed results visit:

- www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Williamtown/Moorsdrainwtp.asp
- www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/oakey/Oakeywtp.asp



Water treatment plant contained in two shipping containers (above and left)



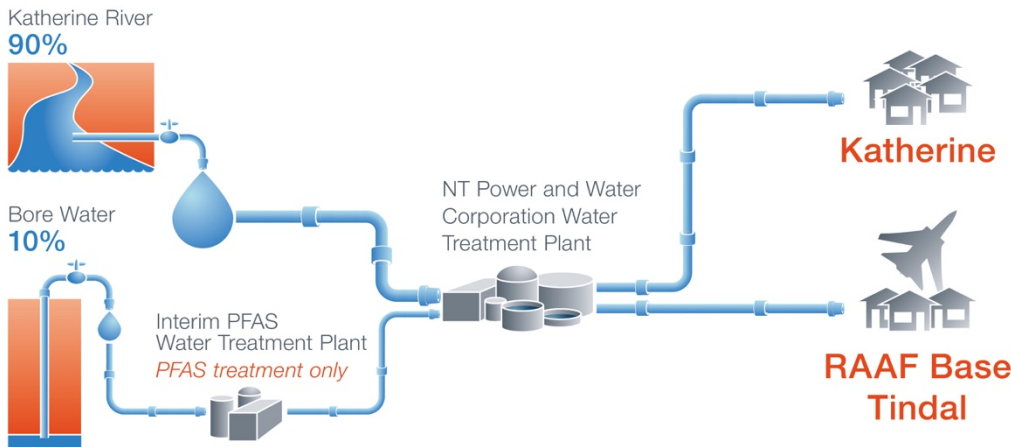


Figure 1: Process of treating and blending bore and river water to supply Katherine and RAAF Base Tindal with treated town water.

Processing of bore water

The interim PFAS water treatment plant filters water from the PFAS contaminated bore before it enters the NT Power and Water Corporation's water treatment plant.

The interim PFAS plant can treat approximately 1 million litres of bore water, or a megalitre (MI) per day. The production rate of the plant treats the majority of the bore water required for town water production. This process significantly reduces the PFAS content in the Katherine town water.

Blending process for town water

The Katherine town water supply is currently a mixture of Katherine River water (90%) and bore water (10%).

The interim PFAS water treatment plant filters PFAS from the bore water before it is blended and disinfected at the NT Power and Water Corporation's water treatment plant to generate the town water supply. This blend will be carefully monitored to ensure that PFAS levels in the Katherine water supply remain below the health based guidance values.

Long-term solutions to managing PFAS

Defence will continue to work with the NT Government to develop interim solutions to minimise the level of PFAS in the town water supply, while longer-term solutions are investigated by the NT Government.

NT Power and Water Corporation is

investigating options for long-term solutions for the Katherine town water supply. These include, but are not limited to:

- finding new bore locations in areas where no PFAS has been detected, and
- upgrading infrastructure so there is no need to rely on bore water and upgrading infrastructure to permanently treat bore water to remove PFAS.

These solutions are expected to take some time to develop.

Contact the RAAF Base Tindal Investigation Project Team

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