



Army Aviation Centre Oakey – Response Management Activities PFAS Investigation and Management Program

PFAS Response Management Activities

The Department of Defence (Defence) continues to implement a range of management actions on Army Aviation Centre Oakey (the Base) as part of its National PFAS Investigation and Management Program. Defence is working with industry experts both nationally and internationally, to identify the best management and remedial options to reduce the movement of, and potential exposure to, PFAS where possible.

This includes consideration of PFAS impacts in soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater, and long term management options that can be practically implemented on Base.

The following PFAS response management activities are currently underway or under consideration.

Water Treatment Plant

Defence has implemented a water treatment plant (WTP) to treat contaminated groundwater beneath the Base. The WTP is operational and treating water to below the adopted drinking water criteria. Defence is targeting one of the source areas where the groundwater is heavily contaminated.

The treated water will be re-injected back into the aquifer reducing the amount of contaminated groundwater leaving the Base. Defence is working closely with Queensland Government to ensure the aquifer is protected during the extraction and reinjection of groundwater. Defence is committed to providing the community with up to date information, and as a result, from early 2018 the analytical data of the treated water will be available on the PFAS Oakey website.



Above: Oakey Water treatment Plant





Removal of Source Areas Former Fire Training Area

Defence is planning works to remove PFAS impacted soil at and around the former Fire Training Area (FTA). Testing of soil will be undertaken to define the excavation zone in order to most effectively reduce the overall mass of PFAS in the area. Defence is working closely with industry experts to identify the best approach to remediate the former FTA. The soil from the FTA will be excavated and stockpiled for off-site disposal and subsequent treatment at an approved licensed landfill where possible.

Onsite Open Drain Maintenance Works

The drain maintenance activities on Base are currently underway. Almost two kilometres of open drains have been excavated and the waste material disposed off-site to an authorised waste disposal facility. Sediment from the drains is being removed in order to reduce the migration of PFAS in surface water off-Base. In addition, the maintenance removes the buildup of vegetation, improving drain functionality. Subject to weather conditions, the works will be completed by the end of 2017.

Below: Drain Maintenance Works



Toowoomba Regional Council Town Water Connections

Defence has engaged Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to connect 43 properties that are relying on tanks or bores for drinking water that are affected by PFAS contamination. TRC is working on the design of new water mains to be connected to the affected properties. The construction of the new water mains is scheduled to commence on 11 December 2017.

TRC is also securing a contract to undertake plumbing services which will involve piping the affected property to the new mains. TRC will advise Defence when the contract is awarded. The contractors will commence once the new water mains have been constructed.

The project is due to conclude by mid 2018.

Where can I get more information?



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defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/oakey/



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