

Federal Court Class Actions

- Residents and business owners in Williamstown, NSW, Oakey, QLD, and Katherine, NT, have commenced separate class actions against the Commonwealth in the Federal Court of Australia. These class actions relate to the Department of Defence's historical use of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Defence sites.
- As these matters are currently before the Court, it would not be appropriate to comment further.

Potential Future Class Actions

- Defence is aware that some law firms have been investigating potential class actions in relation to other Defence sites. At this time, no formal documentation has been served on the Commonwealth in relation to any other Defence site.

Resolution of Other PFAS-Related Claims

- The Commonwealth has reached a settlement agreement with a party that claimed compensation for losses connected with PFAS-related issues.
- The claim was not litigated.
- The parties have agreed not to publicly disclose the terms of settlement and the Commonwealth is bound to honour this agreement.
- In addition to the settlement, two claims have been resolved under existing Departmental policy initiatives.
- It is not appropriate for Defence to publicly discuss individual claims.
- It is open to any person or business that considers it has suffered a loss or damage that is connected to a PFAS-related issue to deal directly with Defence.
- All claims received by Defence that are connected with PFAS-related issues are handled in accordance with the Attorney-General's *Legal Services Directions 2017* (Cth).

Cross Bench inquiries

Defence is working closely with the PFAS Taskforce in the Department of the Environment and Energy, which is coordinating the whole-of-government response to PFAS, including the responses to inquiries conducted by the Parliament. PFAS is a national issue facing a number of sites outside of Defence across Australia.