



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

No. 321

WRITTEN QUESTION

J Davis to the Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Hon Joshua Burgoyne MLA:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Rapid Creek

- 1. In light of ongoing PFAS litigation in Australia, what specific containment or remediation measures are currently in place to prevent PFAS entering Rapid Creek from Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base Darwin and Darwin Airport?**

As part of their response to PFAS contamination at RAAF Darwin, Department of Defence (DoD) undertakes an Ongoing Monitoring Plan and annual Ongoing Monitoring Report. PFAS sampling at all off-base locations occurs twice yearly at the end of the wet season (March) and start of the wet-season (December). Additional sampling occurs at selected sites, including along Rapid Creek, monthly during the wet season (December - April) and twice during the dry season (June and July). Reference: [Ongoing Monitoring Plan RAAF Darwin, Australian Government Defence](#).

Sampling results published by DoD each year are available at: [Annual Monitoring Report](#). Further information regarding risk assessments, investigations and remediation and management measures can be found at the same link.

- a. How is the effectiveness of those measures independently verified?**

The remediation and management measures are under the jurisdiction of DoD. Any further questions regarding independent verification should be referred to DoD.

- 2. How is the position statement of the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA) on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances applied to contamination originating from Commonwealth land, and what engagement has occurred with the Commonwealth on the management of PFAS affecting Rapid Creek?**

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) leads Northern Territory (NT) engagement with the Commonwealth on the PFAS

National Coordinating Body. CM&C is supported by an NT interagency working group, including representatives from the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment, who also support the NT Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

The jurisdiction of the NT EPA under the *Waste Management and Pollution Control Act 1998* (WMPC Act) includes licensing listed waste activities conducted on a commercial or fee-for-service basis, as well as regulating PFAS contamination. There are no DoD projects that require an NT EPA licence under the WMPC Act.

The NT EPA Position Statement explains the NT EPA position on transitional or alternative arrangements for existing remediation projects that commenced under earlier versions of the National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP). You can find more on the NT EPA's approach to PFAS here: [PFAS | NTEPA](#).

Prior to the release of NEMP 3.0, DoD made submissions to the Senate Select Committee on PFAS that it operates within NEMP guidelines: [Submissions – Parliament of Australia # 66](#).