



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

PFAS Investigation Program—Frequently asked questions

October 2022

Why aren't all Australian airports included in the program?

Only the airports where the Commonwealth has previously conducted firefighting activities using PFAS-containing foams are included in this investigation program.

Are PFAS-containing foams still being used in firefighting activities at Australian airports?

PFAS-containing foams have been phased out in Australia and are no longer used by the Commonwealth. From 2003, legacy firefighting foam containing PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients were phased out and, since 2010, fluorine free foam has been used.

Will the department undertake remediation of PFAS contamination if found during the investigation program?

The current program and funding is for an investigation program. As part of this program an appropriate management plan will be developed in conjunction with each site based on the findings of the investigation, to stop PFAS at its source.

Who is undertaking the investigations?

Expert contaminated lands consultants have been engaged by the department to conduct the site investigation works on behalf of the DITRDC.

What are the next steps?

The pilot program has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. The main program will commence in early 2023, a staged approach will be undertaken to progress works with the remaining airports over the duration of the program.

Was this program originally 3 years?

The Australian Government committed \$130.5 million over three years from the 2021-22 budget for a PFAS investigation program for up to 37 civilian airport sites.

The 2022-2023 Budget extends the PFAS Investigation Program by an additional three years to 30 June 2027. Extending the program's timeframe will allow sufficient time to conduct effective investigations, and stage the number of airports participating in the program to better manage market capacity constraints and risks.

How do I find out more about the investigation program?

To find out more about the investigation program, please visit: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/PFAS>.

You can also contact the department directly at PFAS@infrastructure.gov.au.