

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts

Committee Inquiries Question on Notice

Select Committee on PFAS (per and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

IQ25-000100

Division/Agency: DIV - International Aviation Technology and Services

Hansard Reference: Written (25 June 2025)

Topic: PFAS Airports Investigation Program

Lidia Thorpe asked:

1. Please provide an update on the PFAS Airports Investigation Program? What is the status at each airport?
2. Regarding PFAS signage in Jervis Bay Territory installed by the department:
 - a) Has there been any feedback provided to the department regarding the signage?
 - b) Does the department have any information regarding the effectiveness of these signs?
 - c) Are there any plans to improve the signage and, if so, how long will it take until new signage is erected?

Answer:

1. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department) is continuing to deliver the PFAS Airports Investigation Program (the Program). Airport participation is voluntary and investigations are being undertaken in tranches to manage market capacity constraints.

The current status of Program investigations at each airport is summarised at [Attachment A](#).

2. a) The department has received feedback from Wreck Bay Aboriginal Community Council (WBACC) Board members and staff regarding the signage requesting that it be updated.

b) and c) The Department of Defence (Defence) is leading the updating of signage and questions should be directed to Defence as the lead department on this matter.

Attachments

- **A:** Summary of airports in scope of the PFAS Airports Investigation Program (as at 1 July 2025)

Summary of Airports in scope for the Program (as at 1 July 2025)

Airport		Leased Federal Airport	Program Status
1	Adelaide SA	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
2	Alice Springs NT	✓	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
3	Archerfield QLD	✓	✓ Tranche 2, PSI and SAQP for DSI underway
4	Avalon VIC	Defence owned	- Not progressing under Program. The Department of Defence and Avalon Airport are progressing investigations.
5	Bankstown NSW	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
6	Brisbane QLD	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI underway
7	Broome WA	✗	- Participation yet to be confirmed
8	Bundaberg QLD	✗	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
9	Cairns QLD	✗	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
10	Camden NSW	✓	✓ Tranche 2, DSI underway
11	Canberra ACT	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
12	Coolangatta/Gold Coast QLD	✓	✓ Tranche 2, PSI and SAQP for DSI underway
13	Darwin NT *	✓	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
14	Devonport TAS	✗	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
15	Eagle Farm QLD	✗	✓ Included as part of Brisbane Airport Program investigations (Tranche 1)
16	Essendon Fields VIC	✓	- Invited to Tranche 3
17	Hamilton Island QLD	✗	- Agreed with airport that investigation not progressing under Program.
18	Hobart TAS	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI complete and mass flux fieldworks underway
19	Jandakot WA	✓	✓ Tranche 2, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
20	Karratha WA	✗	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
21	Launceston TAS	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
22	Mackay QLD	✗	- Invited to Tranche 3
23	Maroochydore / Sunshine Coast NSW	✗	- Agreed with airport investigation not progressing under Program.
24	Melbourne VIC	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
25	Moorabbin VIC	✓	✓ Tranche 2, PSI and SAQP for DSI underway
26	Mount Isa QLD	✓	✓ Tranche 2, PSI and SAQP for DSI underway
27	Norfolk Island NOR	✗	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
28	Parafield SA	✓	✓ Tranche 1, DSI and mass flux fieldworks underway
29	Perth WA	✓	- Invited to Tranche 3
30	Port Headland WA	✗	- Invited to Tranche 3
31	Proserpine QLD	✗	✗ Declined to participate in Tranche 3

Airport		Leased Federal Airport	Program Status
32	Rockhampton QLD	×	×
33	Sydney NSW	✓	- Invited to Tranche 3
34	Tamworth NSW	×	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
35	Townsville QLD *	✓	✓ Tranche 2, PSI and SAQP underway
36	(Wynyard) Burnie TAS	×	✓ Investigation commencing under Tranche 3
37	Yulara (Ayers Rock) NT	×	- Participation yet to be confirmed

Note: Program investigations will generally include a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI), Detailed Site Investigation (DSI), and PFAS Management Plan to monitor and manage contamination. A Human Health and/or Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) will be undertaken if PFAS is detected above guideline levels and exposure pathways have been confirmed. Mass flux studies to help identify which source areas and pathways have the most significant contribution to off-site migration may also be undertaken.

SAQP = Sampling and Analysis Quality Plan

*Joint-user airport