1. Fire-fighting foam containing the chemicals perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) was used in fire-fighting and fire-fighting training from the 1970s to the early-mid 2000s. Use of the foams has occurred at various Australian sites including civil airports, military air bases, large fuel storage terminals and refineries, and ports.
2. A plume of groundwater contaminated with PFOS and PFOA has been detected on and around the Army Aviation Centre Oakey (AACO). The Department of Defence has undertaken a long-term environmental investigation of the AACO site and surrounds to understand the impacts of this contamination and contribute to appropriate management strategies relating to any potential human health and ecological risks.
3. The presence of PFOS and PFOA at the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay and Cairns airports has been confirmed and studies are underway at other airports and defence facilities.
4. The Australian Government, through the Department of Defence and Airservices Australia, is responsible for the management of contamination at the identified sites and the provision of up-to-date information to all concerned affected residents. The Queensland Government expects these bodies to fulfil their obligations to remediate contamination and prevent impacts to local communities.
5. Cabinet noted the new information showing that contamination caused by perfluorinated aqueous fire-fighting foams is widespread.
6. *Attachments*
* Nil.