

QUESTIONS

My inquiry relates to the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments of various sites under the National PFC Environment Management Program.

Media reports suggest the assessment of the Army Aviation Centre Oakey site is due to be released "within the month".

Is that correct? If not, when and how is it expected to be released? Will it be a document published online, or is there a media event/announcement planned in Canberra or Oakey?

Furthermore, what is the proposed timetable for the release of assessments at the four investigation sites under the Program?

And finally, who has the Defence Department engaged to carry out the assessments?

RESPONSE

Army Aviation Centre Oakey

The human health risk assessment and the ecological risk assessment for Oakey are due to be finalised at the end of August and end of September 2016 respectively. The results of these assessments will assist Defence and the Queensland government to determine next steps.

All reports of these investigations will be made available on the project website when finalised:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/Default.asp>

They will also be made available at the Jondaryan Shire Library, 62 Campbell St, Oakey and the Toowoomba City Library, 155 Herries St, Toowoomba.

Defence has awarded contracts to AECOM (environmental consultancy) ToxConsult (toxicology profiles) and GHD (site auditor).

Defence will consult with the community at the earliest opportunity once both reports are finalised. It is anticipated that a community information session and walk in sessions with representatives from the above specialists will be held in Oakey to provide the community with the opportunity to ask questions.

RAAF Base East Sale, RAAF Base Pearce, and HMAS Albatross

Work has commenced on detailed site investigations at RAAF Base East Sale, RAAF Base Pearce and HMAS Albatross and draft reports from initial sampling are currently under review. The final reports will be issued to relevant State and Territory Government agencies once the reviews have been completed.

Community consultation will occur at RAAF Base Pearce, HMAS Albatross and RAAF Base East Sale in September 2016. The community consultation will provide information on the investigations and next steps. This will enable the community to ask questions and for Defence to work with local residents to allay concerns.

Defence remains committed to being open and transparent with local communities during the investigations.

More information about the Defence National PFC Environmental Management Program is available online at
<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/Default.asp>

The enHealth Guidance Statements are available from the Department of Health at:
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-publth-publicat-environ.htm>

Defence has established a national website to facilitate access to information regarding its PFOS and PFOA investigation program:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/Default.asp>

Defence has also established a national telephone number: 1800 365 414 and email address: PFCDefenceCoordination@golder.com.au