

Response provided to journalist 26 July 2016

Question

I am doing a story today with cattle farmers affected by the Oakey groundwater contamination crisis, ahead of a meeting between residents and the Defence Department on Wednesday.

They have outlined their concerns and also called on the Defence Department to clarify exactly those areas that have been contaminated. At the moment, they've been told they might be in the contaminated area, but are waiting for confirmation.

I was wondering if I could get a comment from the department about this and also what it hopes to achieve at Wednesday's meeting.

Response

Thank you for your enquiry. Defence will provide the outcomes of the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the community information session in Oakey on Wednesday 27 July.

The purpose of the report is to define the levels and extent of PFOS and PFOA compounds detected within the investigation area, and identify areas where PFOS and PFOA has been detected.

The report will describe the method used to collect, soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water samples, and will include a numerical groundwater model, which estimates the possible future movement of PFOS and PFOA in groundwater beneath the area.

The detection area maps will be updated based on the ESA findings and will be available following the release of the report.

Members of the community will also have the opportunity to ask questions about these maps at community walk-in sessions on the 28 July 16.

The investigation area is shown in the map at www.defence.gov.au/id/oakey

Defence has held seven community information sessions in Oakey.