

Response provided to journalist  
06 July 2016

**Questions:**

I have a request about ground soil testing at Oakey.

I understand at least one resident whose soil has been tested has been told by the management at the Oakey Aviation Base that the results of those tests won't be released individually to her, but that they'll form part of Defence's new 'plume' map.

I have some questions I'd like answered:

1. Will Defence release PFOS/PFOA test results from each property to the property owner before the new plume map is made public?
2. If not, why has Defence chosen not to release these results to each property owner?
3. Will Defence release an updated map of the contamination plume at the meeting planned for 20 July in Oakey?

**Response:**

Defence is currently undertaking detailed investigations at the Army Aviation Centre – Oakey (AACO). All detailed investigations are undertaken in accordance with the National Environment Protection (*Assessment of Site Contamination*) Measure framework.

Defence has undergone extensive sampling on, and in the vicinity of, AACO in order to inform detailed investigation reports. Defence is being open and transparent in making the verified sampling results available to relevant Queensland state and local authorities, as well as relevant property owners. Property owners will be notified of their test results prior to community engagement.

The purpose of the AACO Environmental Site Assessment report is to identify levels and extent of PFOS and PFOA compounds detected within the Investigation Area and to inform subsequent reports. The Environmental Site Assessment report will describe the location of, and the method used to collect a range of samples including soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water samples.

The information in the Environmental Site Assessment report will be used to inform the community about where PFOS/PFOA source areas are and where contamination has moved to. Another component of the Environmental Site Assessment report is a numerical groundwater model, which estimates the future movement of PFOS and PFOA in groundwater beneath the area.

The AACO Environmental Site Assessment report, which will be made publicly available shortly, will also feature an updated map showing the extent of PFOS and PFOA detection in groundwater beneath the area. The updated maps will also be presented and explained in further detail at upcoming community consultation.

Defence continues to work co-operatively with the Commonwealth, Queensland state and local authorities, and the local community on this issue.