

Response provided to journalist
06 July 2016

Question:

I have been doing some stories about testing for chemicals at Pearce air base.

In my last story which was published yesterday I said "Testing has been carried out on 10 bores in an area outside the air base with two bores returning levels above the guidelines."

But a resident has contacted me to say this is wrong.

The resident said 10 private bores were tested and no PFOS or PFOA was detectable in the eight West Bullsbrook bores tested but some was detected in the other two south east bores but the levels were below the interim guideline cut offs.

Would you please clarify this so I can put the correct information on the website?

Answer:

Defence has undertaken preliminary investigations at RAAF Base Pearce to test for the presence of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) on, and within the vicinity of, the base.

During testing, 10 private bores were sampled in the Bullsbrook area. Of the 10 private bores, PFCs were not detected in eight bores.

Two bores detected low levels of PFCs. Both detections were below the WA Government interim guideline for assessing and managing PFCs.

Defence expects to receive the final report for the preliminary site investigations by early August 2016. Results of the preliminary site investigations will be presented to the community after Defence receives the final report.