

1. Just have a follow up query - in relation to the below sentence, what actions are being taken?

"The appropriate stakeholders at and in vicinity of RAAF Base Edinburgh, including relevant state authorities, have been informed of the preliminary sampling program, and appropriate actions are being taken where required."

Defence is liaising with the Environment Protection Authority South Australia (EPA SA), the City of Salisbury and Renewal SA regarding the preliminary sampling program at RAAF Base Edinburgh.

Preliminary sampling is limited to selected bores and open water courses. Its purpose is to understand if PFOS and PFOA are present on, or in the vicinity of, the base. Subject to what is found, a detailed site investigation may follow.

2. Also, I assume Defence has alerted those who work at the base? Is it also getting in touch with former workers at the base? And if so, which workers are being told - i.e. those who worked there between 1970 and now?

Defence ensures the safety of its workers by conducting occupational exposure health risk assessments to mitigate exposure to possible known contaminants.

All fire fighting foam products used in Defence must meet and be used in accordance with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, Work Health and Safety Regulations, WHS Manual and Defence WHS policy.

Defence has an Exposure Evaluation Scheme where staff can voluntarily register if they have any concerns. The scheme is open to current and former employees who suspect that they have been exposed to a hazardous chemical.

3. Is Defence advising people/businesses around the Edinburgh base not to use bore water until the testing is completed? And if so, what radius around the base does this affect?

The preliminary sampling process involves taking approximately 10 samples from surface water and selected bores near the base.

Health advice is a matter for State authorities.

However, according to the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) [guidance statements](#) issued on 16 March 2016, there is currently no consistent evidence that exposure to PFOS and PFOA causes adverse human health effects. Because these chemicals persist in humans and the environment, enHealth recommends that human exposure to these chemicals is minimised as a precaution.