

**Independent water tests from Oakey, conducted by Australian Laboratory Services ... have been found to contain 425 times more PFOS and PFOA than internationally accepted safe limits.**

**Water samples were taken from Oakey Creek, a local easement and an irrigation bore close to the Aviation Army Base.**

**The results of these tests were analysed by independent lab services in Sydney last week.**

**The tests found PFOS at more than 12 times the internationally accepted safe levels in the Oakey Creek, almost 14 times in the easement and 425 times in a local family's irrigation bore.**

**Questions:**

**1. The results of these tests show the level of PFOS has almost doubled in one local's irrigation bore since Defence last tested the area three months ago - does Defence accept this particular bore contains alarmingly high levels of PFOS and PFOA?**

**2. Considering Defence ceased the use of PFOS/PFOA fire fighting foam in 2006 at Oakey, do these findings concern the Department?**

**3. Will Defence commit to investigating these particular sites for the presence of PFOS and PFOA? The paper is happy to provide exact site locations to the Department.**

Defence takes this matter very seriously and is committed to ensuring the safety of both Defence personnel and the surrounding community.

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.

Sampling results for the detailed investigation will inform the AACO Environment Site Assessment report (due late July 2016), the AACO Human Health Risk Assessment report (due mid August 2016) and the AACO Ecological Risk Assessment report (due late August 2016).

The AACO Environment Site Assessment report will inform Defence of the PFOS and PFOA levels within the investigation area. The report will also describe the location of, and the method used to collect soil, sediment, groundwater and surface water samples within the investigation area.

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.

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