

Response provided to journalist 4 November 2016

Questions:

- Could you send through the final figures from these sampling programs?
- Will you release these figures for the public to view?

Response:

As well as detailed environmental site investigations already underway at other locations, a preliminary sampling program has also been undertaken at 12 Defence sites across Australia, including RAAF Base Townsville and RAAF Base Amberley. The purpose of the preliminary sampling program is to understand if PFAS are present on, or in the vicinity of the selected bases.

Defence has finalised the preliminary sampling program report. The report was provided to relevant Queensland Government authorities for review and consultation on 21st October.

Defence will release the preliminary sampling program report publicly in the first half of November.

Subject to the outcomes of the preliminary sampling program, a detailed environmental investigation may be undertaken at RAAF Base Townsville and RAAF Base Amberley. If detailed investigations are undertaken, they will be conducted in accordance with the National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (NEPM) framework. Defence would conduct a community briefing and information activity prior to the commencement of a detailed environmental investigation.