

Response provided to journalist
18 November 2016

Questions:

I'm following up on the sampling from the RAAF Base in Wagga.

1. Nearby residents say they're expecting to be briefed at some stage and I noted in the press release that it said there would be community consultation at some stage. I was wondering when they will occur, have dates been set, were any meetings held with nearby residents to brief them before the public release of the preliminary findings yesterday?
2. The report was finished 4 months ago and was released to state and federal government agencies and local councils. Is that correct?

Response to all:

The Senior Australian Defence Force Officer from RAAF Base Wagga held a community information session on 24 May 2016 at the Forest Hill Public School. Defence will conduct a community briefing and information activity prior to the commencement of the detailed environmental investigation. The date for this community engagement activity has yet to be determined. Defence will also continue to engage with the community throughout the investigation via a number of print and online avenues, including a dedicated project website, direct mail and factsheets.

The report was preliminary sampling report was finalised in September 2016.

The report then underwent a quality assurance review by an independent environmental consultant before being provided to the relevant State and Territory authorities in October.

The report was publicly released on 8 November 2016 via Defence's National PFAS Investigation and Management Program.