

**Questions:**

The Department of Defence's presentation to Bullsbrook residents on September 22 (<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Master/docs/Pearce/PearceCommunityInfoSession22Sep16-PresentationFinal.pdf>) said you would confirm whether a Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment would be required this month.

- Is a Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment required?
- How does the department determine whether an assessment is required?
- If necessary, how long will this assessment take and what does it involve?
- Has this assessment been conducted at any other RAAF properties in Australia? If so, which ones?

**Response to all:**

The Detailed Site Investigation and second stage of the NEPM process commenced in September 2016 and is expected to be complete in the first half of 2017.

The decision to conduct Human Health Risk Assessment and an Ecological Risk Assessment is based on the initial results of the Detailed Site Investigation and at the recommendation of the specialist independent environmental consultant undertaking the investigation.

Defence has now received a recommendation from the consultant which is being reviewed and Defence will undertake consultation with local and state authorities before advising of the agreed approach. Defence expects to confirm the decision and to also advise the dates on the next proposed Community information session by early November 2016 where the community will be briefed on the program and timeframes.

A Human Health Risk Assessment would assess the possible human health risks associated with exposure to PFAS impacted soil, groundwater, surface water, sediment and biota (plants and animals, including fish). An Ecological Risk Assessment would assess the potential for PFAS detected in the environment to pose unacceptable risks to ecological receptors (plants and wildlife) within the area of investigation and the potential for wider ecosystem impacts as a result of the accumulation of PFAS in terrestrial and aquatic plants and wildlife.

Defence has completed Human Health Risk Assessments and is in the process of completing Ecological Risk Assessments for RAAF Base Williamstown and Army Aviation Centre Oakey.

Further details regarding the National PFAS Environmental Investigation Program can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/PFOSPFOA/Default.asp>