

Q1: Have the PFOA and PFOS chemicals been found in the in the base groundwater, surface water, sediment and soil.

Q2: Is it true that “unlabelled drums with unknown contents were noted to the south of the ... facility as well as to the north.” And if so may these contain PFOS or PFOA chemicals at Amberley?

Q3: When will the investigation into the contamination at RAAF Base Amberley begin and can the investigation date be pushed forward given the results at other bases including Oakey and Williamstown?

Q4: What were the results of the preliminary sampling which was conducted on the base this year to determine whether PFOS and PFOA had spread off site.

Q5: Amberley has since been upgraded to a “Category One site” for contamination, what exactly does this mean?

Q6: Are you aware of the Defence Department commissioned report mentioned by the Courier Mail and do you feel this story reflected the situation accurately?

Q7: If PFOS and PFOA chemicals are found to have leached into the groundwater and surface water what processes would be put in place to deal with this?

Response to all:

Defence does not maintain stocks of the legacy aqueous film forming foams (AFFF) that contain PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients. From 2004 - 2011, Defence phased out the legacy AFFF. Defence transitioned to a new product that has a significantly reduced environmental impact and does not contain PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients.

The Department of Defence conducted a water quality monitoring program on-base at RAAF Base Amberley from mid 2012 to mid 2014. This program included on-base sampling of groundwater, sediment, soil and surface water. As part of the water quality monitoring program, a historical review of AFFF use across the Base was undertaken. The results of this program identified impacts from historical use of AFFF, including detections of PFOS and PFOA.

Defence subsequently undertook an estate wide review over 2014 and 2015 which included RAAF Base Amberley. This review assessed the historical use of legacy AFFF across the estate and provided a categorisation of sites where historical use of AFFF was known or suspected. RAAF Base Amberley has been identified as a Category One site which indicates large quantities or routine and frequent historical use of AFFF at the site.

As a Category One site where historical use of AFFF is known, RAAF Base Amberley was included in the 2016 preliminary sampling program where limited offsite sampling was undertaken to identify if PFAS impacts were present. Once the preliminary sampling program results are available, Defence will inform the community about the results and Defence's response. The community consultation will provide information on the progress of the investigation and the next steps. This consultation will occur in September 2016 and will enable Defence and the community to share information about the issue of PFAS contamination on and in the vicinity of RAAF Base Amberley.

A detailed site investigation is anticipated to commence at RAAF Base Amberley in the first half of 2017. The detailed environmental investigation will be undertaken in accordance with the National Environment Protection Measure (Assessment of Site Contamination) framework as part of Defence's national PFOS/PFOA site investigation program. The detailed investigation will result in an Environmental Site Assessment and may result in a Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment. While the processes for the detailed investigation at Amberley will adopt those applied at RAAF Base Williamstown and Army Aviation Centre Oakey, due to the unique characteristics of each site and the complexities of implementing a detailed investigation Defence is unable to bring the commencement date forward.

Defence remains committed to being open and transparent with local communities during the

investigations. In late 2015 Defence representatives briefed the Ipswich City Council and the state and federal members of parliament on the commencement of the sampling program.