

Response provided to journalist  
08 September 2016

**QUESTION:**

Defence already confirmed that it was moving to a full investigation. Is the "new" bit the part about the "community engagement" in October? And is this just a community meeting or will they be sent letters? It's a bit unclear? And I assume the engagement will just outline what defence plans to do etc?

I was after the levels of contamination found during the preliminary investigation - am I able to get those by any chance please?

**RESPONSE:**

Defence commenced a desktop review in July 2015 of its estate to determine the previous use of legacy AFFF containing PFOS and PFOA. As a result of this review, Defence announced in February 2016 a list of sites including RAAF Base Edinburgh, where these legacy foams were known to have been used, and further investigations were needed to confirm if PFAS had migrated off-base at these locations. Detailed environmental investigations then commenced at RAAF Base East Sale, RAAF Base Pearce and HMAS Albatross and the remaining sites were to have preliminary investigations to determine the priority of the next tranche of detailed investigations.

Defence consulted with the SA EPA in its preparations for a preliminary investigation at RAAF Base Edinburgh. At the result of discussions with the SA EPA, Defence has instead begun preparations for a detailed environmental investigation which is expected to commence later this year. As a result, Defence has not conducted a preliminary investigation at RAAF Base Edinburgh and as such there are no results. Defence is aware that Salisbury Council conducted off-base testing and questions regarding that particular program should be addressed to the Council.

Defence will engage with the local community prior to the commencement of the detailed investigation at RAAF Base Edinburgh and this will take the form of a town hall style briefing. At the briefing, Defence will provide an update on its approach to investigating any contamination identified on, and in the vicinity of, RAAF Base Edinburgh and will provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions about the investigation. Defence will continue to engage with the local community throughout the investigation in collaboration with Salisbury City Council and the SA EPA.