

Questions:

I did not attend the community briefing but I am aware of the ongoing inquiry and investigation into PFAS chemical foams at the base and elsewhere.

Is there anything to report?

Has any evidence of contamination come to light?

Response:

Defence held a Community Walk-in Session on Wednesday 19 April 2017 to discuss the planned detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and in the vicinity of, HMAS Cerberus.

Defence advised the community that the detailed environmental investigation will commence in May 2017 and will identify the potential nature and extent of PFAS contamination on the Base and in the surrounding area. Potential risks to human health and the environment will also be considered and a Human Health and/or Ecological Risk Assessment may be conducted if initial sampling determines the need.

Defence also advised the community that the final Health Based Guidance Values (HBGVs) for PFAS released by the Commonwealth Department of Health will be adopted by Defence within the investigation and assessments for HMAS Cerberus. These HBGVs were developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) at the request of Department of Health and replace the interim Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) guidelines released in June 2016.

Defence continues to be committed to engaging with the local community throughout this investigation. Further information including the presentation from the community engagement can be found at:

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