

Questions

Is Defence commenting on new safe guidelines for PFOS and PFOA as released by Food Standards Australia NZ this week?

Response

Defence acknowledges the release of the Health Based Guidance Values for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) developed by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

These values, developed by FSANZ at the request of the Department of Health, replace the interim advice developed by the Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) in June 2016, on which the current Human Health Risk Assessment for Williamtown and Oakey are based.

The Health Based Guidance Values for PFAS are a precautionary measure to assist people, investigating agencies and affected communities in minimising their exposure to PFAS.

Defence is assessing the implications of the FSANZ guidance values as a priority, and will work with its independent environmental consultants to revise and update relevant reports developed as part of the environmental investigations, including the Human Health Risk Assessment for Williamtown and Oakey.

Current and future Defence investigations and assessments, including those for RAAF Base Wagga, will now adopt the FSANZ guidance values in place of the enHealth interim values.

Defence is committed to engaging with the local community regarding the environmental investigations. Further information on the environmental investigation that will commence at RAAF Base Wagga can be found at:

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