

**Question:**

I'm looking for an update today on what work Defence is doing to survey Oakey residents about their potential exposure to PFAS.

I heard a story on ABC Local Radio here this morning saying Defence is surveying locals to find out who has been growing their own plants and livestock to eat, how long for etc.

Could someone please confirm this for me, and exactly what the survey entails.

**Response:**

Defence is finalising a detailed environmental investigation to better understand the extent and levels of per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) resulting from historical use of fire fighting foams on, and in the vicinity of Army Aviation Centre Oakey (AACO).

In 2016 Defence completed a detailed Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), including ground water modelling, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and a Preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA).

Following the completion of these assessments it was identified that data gaps remained in some portions of the Investigation Area. As a result Defence is conducting further works to update and refine the 2016 assessment reports.

Defence is conducting a 2017 community survey to inform the ongoing investigation of, and response to, the PFAS contamination in the Oakey Investigation Area, in particular refining the HHRA. The survey will help obtain more information about:

- fruit, vegetables, fish, livestock and poultry grown within the Investigation Area that have potentially been exposed to PFAS and that people eat
- potential new sample locations within the Investigation Area to enable further biota sampling to be undertaken
- how water and land within the Investigation Area was typically used to grow fruit, vegetables, fish, eggs, livestock and poultry

The questions in the survey seek to understand how people in the Investigation Area would typically use their land to grow produce and livestock, together with how much of this produce, and how often they would typically consume it.

Defence commenced the additional works at Oakey in January 2017 with sampling of surface water, groundwater, soil sediment and biota (plants and animals), and the works will continue through to approximately October 2017.

These works will also include the following activities:

- research into the uptake of PFAS in fruit and vegetables
- research into the uptake of PFAS in chicken eggs
- seafood sampling and analysis
- additional surface water data collection and analysis

Response provided to journalist  
22 March 2017

- additional groundwater data collection and analysis
- additional sediment data collection and analysis.

This phase of the investigation will be completed and the reports published in late 2017.

The 2017 Community Survey can be found at:

[http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/Oakey/\\_master/docs/AACOCCommunitySurveyFeb2017.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/Oakey/_master/docs/AACOCCommunitySurveyFeb2017.pdf)

Response provided to journalist  
22 March 2017