

**Questions:**

- How many residents attended the walk-ins?
- Who spoke?
- What were the results of the environmental investigation at Amberley?
- What was the primary message delivered at the meetings?
- Are the investigations at Amberley now complete?
- If residents still have concerns, who is their best contact?
- Any other comment

**Response:**

Defence conducted community walk-in sessions to discuss the detailed environmental investigation in and around RAAF Base Amberley on Wednesday 8 March 2017. The Department of Defence's Deputy Secretary of Estate and Infrastructure Steve Grzeskowiak conducted brief presentations attended by a total of 10 residents across both sessions.

The presentation from the community engagement can be found at:  
<http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/Amberley/CommunityConsultation.asp>

The purpose of these sessions was to provide local residents and business owners with an opportunity to discuss the commencement of the detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and in the vicinity of, RAAF Base Amberley.

Defence is taking a responsible and proactive approach to PFAS contamination across the Defence estate through an extensive program of investigations that will identify the extent and levels of PFAS on, and in the vicinity of, its bases. This in turn will inform the best approach to management and remediation in the long term as well as identify risks to human health and ecology and strategies to reduce exposure to the community.

The investigation at RAAF Base Amberley will commence this month and will take approximately 12 months to complete as it will be carried out in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (assessment of contaminated sites) Measure (NEPM) framework.

Considerable effort will be undertaken to carry out this investigation including the collection and analysis of hundreds of samples including soil, water, sediment and flora and fauna as well, as completing modeling of the hydrology of the site.

Specifically, this investigation will include:

- reviewing the historical use, storage and management of legacy AFFF to identify sources
- sampling soil, surface water and groundwater on and off the base to identify the potential for exposure to PFAS in the vicinity
- targeted investigation of soil and groundwater in on-site areas where firefighting foams were used

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- broad soil sampling across the wider base areas
- investigation of sediment and surface water in drainage lines on-base and extending off-base
- collection of surface water and sediment from key human health and ecological receptor locations
- a Human Health Risk Assessment and Ecological Risk Assessment, if required. These assessments will identify the nature and extent of potential contamination, evaluate any potential risks to the population and ecology, and inform future action to mitigate risks

Defence continues to be committed to engaging with the local community throughout this investigation.

If residents have any questions or concerns about the investigation they can contact the National Hotline on:

**Phone Number:** 1800 365 414

**Email:** [PFASDefenceCoordination@golder.com.au](mailto:PFASDefenceCoordination@golder.com.au)

Defence is in the process of establishing a hotline specific for RAAF Base Amberley. Once established the contact details will be provided on the RAAF Base Amberley investigation website at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/Amberley/>