

Questions:

Am I able to get some numbers on the Preliminary Sampling Program findings at RAAF Wagga please? The following document states there were three samples that returned results:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/ master/docs/Wagga/170327 Presentation CommunityWalkInSession.pdf>

In addition to the levels detected, can you please advise if anyone in the broader Wagga area is being provided alternative drinking water as a result of PFOS/PFOA at RAAF Wagga?

Response:

Defence has been proactive in initiating an environmental program to investigate the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), on and in the vicinity of RAAF Base Wagga.

Preliminary sampling was conducted at RAAF Base Wagga on 15 June 2016. A total of five samples were collected from off-base locations in the vicinity of RAAF Base Wagga – three groundwater and two surface water samples. No on-base samples were collected. PFAS was detected in one of the ground water samples as well as in both of the surface water samples.

Details of the Preliminary Sampling Program at RAAF Base Wagga including analytical results for PFAS can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/ master/docs/PSPReports/PSPWagga.pdf>

[see table 8 page 14]

Copies of the Preliminary Sampling Program report were provided to the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Environment Protection Authority and the Wagga City Council.

Currently there are no residents receiving alternative drinking water in the vicinity of RAAF Base Wagga as they do not rely on bore water for domestic purposes and have access to town or rain water. Residents are welcome to contact Defence's PFAS national hotline on 1800 365 414 to discuss eligibility for water assistance.

A detailed environmental investigation will commence in May 2017 at RAAF Base Wagga. This will be conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (NEPM) framework. Following commencement, the investigation will take approximately 12 months to complete.