

**Question:**

Can you also please advise why no samples were collected at the base (*RAAF Base Wagga*) itself?

**Response:**

The purpose of the Preliminary Sampling Program at RAAF Base Wagga was to understand if PFAS are present on, or in the vicinity of the property.

As a result, sampling locations at the boundary of RAAF Base Wagga were selected to identify if PFAS had migrated off base.

The findings of the Preliminary Sampling Program confirmed the presence of PFAS at RAAF Base Wagga, and so a detailed environmental investigation will be conducted at RAAF Base Wagga.

The sampling to be conducted as part of the detailed environmental investigation will be far more comprehensive than that conducted for the Preliminary Sampling Program, and may include drilling additional bores (on and off base) if required.

The detailed environmental investigation will also include:

- reviewing the historical use, storage and management of aqueous film forming foams to identify potential sources of PFAS;
- sampling soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater on and off the base to identify PFAS exposure in the vicinity;
- identifying pathways and receptors for the potential migration of PFAS;
- community and stakeholder engagement, including a water-use survey; and
- a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (if required), which will evaluate potential risks to the human population and ecology, and inform future action to mitigate risks.

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

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