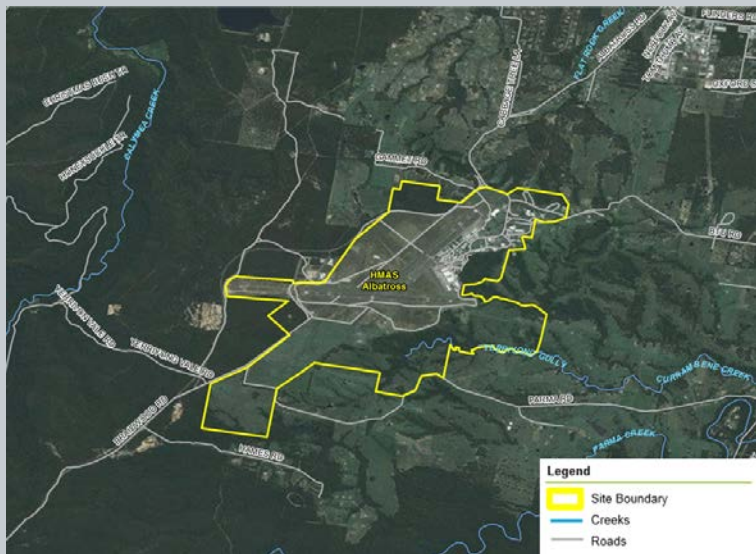




# HMAS Albatross - Environmental Investigation Project

## Background to the investigation

The Department of Defence (Defence) has engaged an independent environmental consultant to undertake an environmental investigation on, and in the vicinity of, HMAS Albatross (the base).



*HMAS Albatross (outlined in yellow) and surrounding community*

The investigation is part of Defence's review of a number of its sites around Australia that used legacy fire-fighting foams containing per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctane sulfonate, known as PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid, known as PFOA. Defence has phased out the use of the old foams that contained PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients and is proactively managing legacy contamination across its estate.

All detailed environmental investigations are undertaken by experienced environmental services providers and are in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (NEPM).

## What investigation activity has occurred to date?

The HMAS Albatross 'preliminary site investigation' started in May 2016, and has included:

- Providing information to the community via a dedicated project website, project fact sheets and an introductory community information session in May 2016.
- Surveying residents regarding their water use.
- Consulting with key NSW and local government stakeholders.
- Reviewing site history for AFFF use and identifying sources of PFAS.
- Collecting and analysing on- and off-base water samples, including from residential properties in close proximity to the base.
- Developing a plan for the next stage of the process - the 'detailed site investigation'.

## Upcoming Community Information session

The next community information session will be held to support the release of the 'preliminary site investigation' report. It will provide the community with an overview of the report's key findings and results.

**Date: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Time: 5:30 – 7:30 pm (presentation at 6pm)**

**Location: Shoalhaven City Turf Club, Archer Racecourse, Albatross Road, Nowra, NSW 2541**

To register an interest in attending this event please contact the Project Information Line on 1800 856 491





## Investigation activity to follow

The 'detailed site investigation' will commence in September 2016, and includes:

- More comprehensive sampling, which will include on and off-base sampling in soil, groundwater, surface water and drainage lines to further assess the nature and extent of PFAS on, and near the base.
- Investigating and modelling how PFAS moves through the environment and preparing the detailed site investigation report.
- Preparing a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment if required.

## Investigation Outcomes

Defence provides the environmental investigation reports to relevant government stakeholders such as NSW EPA, and Departments of Health and Primary Industries. This ensures they have current information on which to inform their management decisions.

Once detailed environmental investigation reports are finalised and publicly released, Defence will consult with residents, businesses and local stakeholders on the findings.

## Further Information?

Defence is committed to regularly updating the community throughout the investigation including at key points when investigation reports are released. The project website will be updated and community information sessions, direct mail and factsheets will be provided as the investigation progresses.

If you have any enquiries or requests relating to individual properties please contact the Defence project team.

If you rely on bore water for drinking please visit the project website for more information or contact 1800 856 491 to discuss possible management strategies.

## Contact the Project Team



Project 1800 856 491



[www.defence.gov.au/id/albatross](http://www.defence.gov.au/id/albatross)



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