



What happens next?

The next step is to complete the detailed site investigation (DSI). The DSI commenced in September 2016 and includes on and off-base sampling to further assess the nature and extent of PFAS on, and in the vicinity of the base.

A detailed report will be prepared and shared with relevant government and regulatory bodies as well as the community. This will also be made available to the public.

Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment

As part of the investigation, a human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA) is now also underway. To inform the HHERA, selected flora and fauna will be tested. This includes sampling from edible produce including honey, edible fish, pasture and livestock in areas where PFAS may be present.

Health

Due to their widespread use, most people living in developed nations will have some level of PFAS in their body. PFAS can be naturally eliminated from the body, but it takes some time to be removed, and accumulation can occur if intake continues.

The Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) advises that there is no consistent evidence that exposure to PFOS, PFHxS, and PFOA causes adverse human health effects. Because these chemicals persist in humans and the environment, enHealth recommends that human exposure to these chemicals is minimised as a precaution.

For more information relating to PFAS and health guidance please refer to the enHealth Guidance Statements that may be found on the Commonwealth Department of Health's website www.health.gov.au.

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.

Contact the Project Team



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