



HMAS Albatross – Community Update Newsletter

PFAS Investigation and Management Program



Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI)

Completed September 2016



Community Walk-in Session

Conducted October 2016



Water Use Survey

2017



Detailed Site Investigation (DSI)

Completed November 2017



Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA)

Completed November 2017



Community Walk-In Session

Conducted November 2017



Addendum to HHERA

Completed June 2018



Community Walk-in Session

Conducted June 2018



PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP)

Expected first-quarter 2019



Community Walk-In Session

Planned end of first-quarter 2019



*Dates may be subject to rescheduling

Newsletter Subscription

Future newsletters will be distributed via email. To receive updates on the PFAS Management activities at and around HMAS Albatross, please email your details to:

HMAS.Albatross@arecongroup.com

If email is not preferred, please contact the Project Team on **1800 856 491**

Contacts

Phone 1800 856 491

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Website www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/albatross

Background

Defence has completed a detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on, and in the vicinity of, HMAS Albatross.

In November 2017, the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) reports were presented to the local community.

The DSI involved sampling soil, sediment, surface and ground water to collect information and better understand how PFAS moves through the environment.

The HHERA provides a better understanding of the potential for PFAS exposure to people, plants and animals within the Investigation Area. An addendum to this report was published in June 2018 to include some further risks not fully assessed in the HHERA Report.

Based on the environmental investigation findings, Defence is currently developing a PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) for HMAS Albatross.

What is the PMAP?

The PMAP will outline activities that Defence will undertake to manage and reduce the risks of PFAS exposure at HMAS Albatross and nearby areas.

The PMAP will guide Defence to:

- Manage the key sources of contamination such as the former firefighting training area and sewage treatment plant;
- Reduce the amount of PFAS in the environment;
- Reduce PFAS migration from the Base; and
- Manage the exposure risks for the community.

Developing the PMAP involves a review of the sources of the contamination and the key ways it is migrating into the wider community. It also includes a comparison and evaluation of the range of available PFAS management activities to identify possible remediation options for the site.

As part of the PMAP, an Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) is being prepared to outline the sampling program that will be undertaken by Defence to monitor and track the PFAS contamination over the coming years.

Once complete, the PMAP will be reviewed annually, or more frequently if new information or technology arises which has the potential to impact the PMAP objectives.

Next Steps

Defence is engaging with NSW Environment Protection Authority and other NSW Government departments to review and comment on the PMAP and OMP prior to public release.

Defence is committed to regularly updating the community and will conduct community engagement in the second quarter of 2019 to discuss the outcomes of the PMAP.

