

Questions:

A question was raised by a resident at one of your community days in Ipswich recently, about Warrill Creek and Bremer River in One Mile recording high levels of PFAS... and whether Defence should be pushing for signage to be placed at the waterways to warn fishers or swimmers?

Also I understand Defence will sample fish, yabbies and freshwater mussels in Warrill Creek and the Bremer River in the new year? If this is the case, can I request some more info about when this will begin, what the process will be, and what the purpose will be?

Response:

As part of the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) investigation at RAAF Base Amberley, Defence will be sampling soil, sediment, surface water, groundwater and aquatic species. In respect of the aquatic species in Warrill Creek and the Bremer River, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries have provided advice on the types of aquatic species that are recreationally caught. The full suite of aquatic species sampling is still being finalised with sampling expected to commence in early 2018.

The results of the sampling will be used to inform assessments of potential exposure risks to people and the environment. These assessments will be contained in formal reports that are anticipated will be ready for release mid-2018.

As per standard procedures, Defence provides all data to the Queensland Government, this will include data from Warrill Creek, Bremer River and adjacent Council parks. If during the investigation, findings identify potential exposure risks to the community, the Queensland Government will issue appropriate precautionary notices to the public.