

Response provided to journalist
6 December 2017

Questions:

1. Why has Defence decided not to release the Interim Human Health Risk Assessment for Katherine ?
2. Did dept of defence consult with any other agency on this decision?
3. Has a copy of the interim report been made available to the NT Health Minister and Minister for Primary Industries, if so when?
4. Has a copy of the interim report been made available to the NTEPA and the NT Health Department? If so , when ?

Response to all:

Defence has developed an Interim Human Health Risk Assessment (IHHRA) to evaluate potential risks that PFAS may present to people living within the RAAF Base Tindal investigation area. Defence has been working closely with the NT Government throughout the investigation and will continue to do so.

The IHHRA is currently being reviewed by relevant Territory and Federal Government agencies and is expected to be finalised and released to the public in January 2018.

Defence acknowledges the desire of the Katherine community to understand the potential impacts of PFAS as soon as possible, which is why the findings of the interim Human Health Risk Assessment were made available to the community as soon as practicable.

The independent environmental consultant conducting the environmental investigation is finalising the interim Human Health Risk Assessment report and Detailed Site Investigation report. These reports are currently undergoing a quality assurance review and will be made publicly available as soon as possible in the coming weeks.

The IHHRA will be followed by a comprehensive Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) that will look at potential exposures in more detail.

Defence is committed to providing the community with prompt advice on the progress and findings of the investigation. In order to keep the community informed, Defence presented the key findings of the IHHRA at a community walk-in session in Katherine on 04 December 2017. A factsheet outlining these findings is available on the [Defence Tindal PFAS investigation website](#).