

Questions:

Are there any other animals/water life being tested other than ducks at Heart Morass?

This statement "Concrete sampling of demolition waste stockpiled in the southwest of the site identified low total and leachable PFAS concentrations indicating the potential for impacts to land or waters, should the material not be managed appropriately" seems to suggest a potential for problems. What will be done to mitigate the potential?

Is RAAF satisfied that everything has and will be done to minimise/eradicate risk to human/wildlife through contamination?

Response:

Defence has been proactive in initiating an environmental program to investigate the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), on and in the vicinity of RAAF Base East Sale.

The first stage of the investigation, the Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI), commenced in April 2016 and was completed in October 2016. The PSI included establishing an understanding of site characteristics to identify possible pathways of PFAS to on and off-base receptors.

The PSI findings were used to develop the sampling plan for the second stage of the investigation, the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI), which has now been completed. The results of the DSI have identified a requirement for assessment to be conducted on receptors including fish, eels, ducks, small invertebrates (e.g. yabbies), and aquatic plants within the Heart Morass to establish if there are risks associated with PFAS.

This assessment will be conducted as part of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) that commenced concurrently with the DSI on September 2016 and is expected to be completed in late 2017. The HHERA includes comprehensive on-base and off-base sampling to assess human and ecological exposure to PFAS and associated health and ecological risks.

Defence's priority remains the health and safety of the community and Defence personnel and also the management of potential impacts of PFAS exposure on the environment.

Defence continues to engage with industry experts both nationally and internationally, to identify the best management and remedial options for PFAS. This includes the management of the demolition waste being stockpiled on the property. The best management and remedial options for a particular site are determined by site-specific factors, including the site's hydrogeology, the type of contamination, and

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access to the site. The environmental investigation currently underway will provide Defence with significant site-specific information.

Defence continues to be committed to engaging with the local community throughout this investigation.

Further information on the RAAF Base East Sale PFAS investigation can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/EastSale/>

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