

Questions:

I am just writing to request some up to date information on where the investigation into the contamination from firefighting foams is at around HMAS Albatross in Nowra.

I would just like to know

- a. Whether there has been any progress/updates since the last update in April in regards to contaminated areas/effect of contamination locally
- b. When the next lot of community consultation will be held and whether you have provided any updates to residents since the last consultation in April.
- c. When a detailed site investigation might be released.

Response:

In April 2017, Defence conducted a community walk-in session to provide the local community with an update on the second stage of the environmental investigation into PFAS, the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI). In addition, Defence advised that a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) to assess the potential risks to human health and the environment from PFAS exposure has also commenced.

Since April, further sampling of groundwater off base, plants and animals has been conducted to inform both the DSI and HHERA, which are both anticipated to be completed and publically published by the end of 2017.

Defence is committed to engaging with local communities throughout the PFAS investigations and expects to conduct the next community walk-in session to be held in late 2017 to present the findings of the DSI and the HHERA.