

Questions

I'm working on a piece regarding the discovery of elevated levels of PFAS at the Heart Morass Wetland near the East Sale RAAF Base, and wanted to ask a couple of brief questions.

- **Why did the Victorian EPA release this information, and not the DoD?**
- **Did the DoD request that the EPA not publish the information?**
- **If it did, why?**

Response to all

Defence, as per standard process, provides data collected during investigations to relevant authorities including State and Territory Environment Protection Authorities (EPA). All results are also publically published at the conclusion of each stage of the investigation.

It is not appropriate for Defence to provide advice to the public on the regulatory impacts of sampling results. This is the responsibility of the relevant State and local government authorities.

Defence provides sampling results on a regular basis to EPA Victoria. The most recent results for the East Sale investigation were provided on 18 September 2017. After analysing the results, EPA Victoria recommended that to reduce exposure to PFAS recreational fishers and duck hunters not consume any animals caught at the wetlands until the release of the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment which is currently being developed.