

**Questions:**

Local federal MP, Susan Templeman (Macquarie) has issued a media release in relation to PFAS at Richmond RAAF Base.

In it she said “The big problem in Richmond is that the initial testing of bores off the RAAF Base didn’t provide a comprehensive picture, and I understand another round of testing is underway. “There is also the question of the clean-up of contaminated sites on the Base,” Ms Templeman said.

I did some stories on this last year. These stories say that Richmond's preliminary sampling indicated it warranted a more detailed study, and tenders were called in March for the job of doing that study.

Can you give me an update on where our more detailed study is up to please, and any other relevant developments on the investigation of Richmond's case.

**Response:**

In 2016, Defence completed a Preliminary Sampling Program to investigate the presence of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at 12 Defence sites, including RAAF Base Richmond. Based on the outcome of the Preliminary Sampling Program it was determined the base required a detailed environmental investigation. The results of this program are available online at: <http://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/publications/reports.asp>

In May 2017, Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation into the nature and extent of PFAS on, and in the vicinity of, RAAF Base Richmond. The investigation is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (NEPM) framework.

The first stage of the detailed environmental investigation has been completed and involved a review of the historic use of legacy firefighting foams at the base to identify PFAS sources, migration pathways and potential receptors. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Richmond/Factsheets/20170907RAAFBaseRichmondFactsheetSeptemberCWIS.pdf>

The second stage of the detailed environmental investigation has commenced. This stage involves extensive sampling on-base and in the surrounding region. A detailed report will be prepared and shared with relevant government and regulatory bodies as well as the community. The report is expected to be completed in mid-2018.

Defence is committed to regularly updating the community throughout the investigation. As well as community information sessions, updates are provided through the [project website](#), direct mail and information sheets as new information becomes available.