

**Questions:**

- How many commercial farms are affected by PFAS in the Katherine area?
- Have produce samples from these farms returned results over deemed safe limits? (or over levels which would affect the ability of producers to sell their goods). If so, what action is Defence taking in response to this?
- How many people have applied for compensation due to PFAS contamination in the Katherine area?
- Is Defence aware of its staff telling people affected by PFAS that their levels are lower than what the written scientific reports show? If so, what action has it taken in regards to this?
- Is Defence offering government funded (or subsidised) blood tests to check PFAS levels in its own staff (and their families) in the Katherine area. OR are Defence staff in the Katherine area able to apply for them?

**Response:**

Defence is aware that there are a small number of commercial farms located within the Investigation Area at Katherine.

Sampling of produce is being conducted where exposure pathways for PFAS have been identified. The sampling from within the Investigation Area will be used to inform the Human Health Risk Assessment. Once finalised, all findings from the environmental investigations and risk assessments will be reported to the relevant government agencies, regulatory bodies and the local community.

Defence is unaware of a discrepancy between published results and results reported to the community. If residents are uncertain about interpreting the results, they are encouraged to contact the phone line on 1800 316 813.

Currently, the Australian Government is not offering free or subsidised blood tests to Defence personnel or their families unless they have previously lived or worked in the Williamtown, NSW or Oakey, QLD Investigation Areas.

In the event that an individual or business considers that they have suffered a loss or injury as a consequence of Defence activities, it is open to that individual or business to make a claim. Claims for compensation will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Further information on claims is outlined at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/FinancialClaims.asp>