

Response provided to Journalist  
11 April 2018

**Question**

Just touching base to see where the PFAS investigation is up to at HMAS Albatross?

We did a story after a public forum in Nowra Hill in November, when it was revealed that Currumbene Creek downstream of HMAS Albatross was contaminated with PFAS.

I also believe there was some investigations into possible contamination relating to HMAS Creswell at Jervis Bay.

Just wanted to know if there's been any developments since then? Where is the testing/investigation up to? And what's the timeframe from here on in?

Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated.

**Response**

Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation on, and in the surrounding area of, HMAS Albatross in May 2016.

In November 2017, Defence completed the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) and the preliminary Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA). The DSI involved sampling of soil, sediment, and surface and ground water to collect information and better understand how PFAS moves through the environment. The HHERA was undertaken to better understand the risks of exposure to PFAS for people and the environment. The results of the DSI and HHERA were presented at a community walk-in session in November 2017 and are summarised at the following:

<http://defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Albatross/Factsheets/20171116AlbatrossDSIHHERAFactsheet.pdf>

During the course of the investigation some gaps were identified in the data collected. Defence is currently undertaking further sampling and analysis to address these gaps, including:

- further fish, surface water and sediment sampling from the lower reaches of Currumbene Creek, where more regular recreational fishing is likely to occur
- further soil and biota sampling from the Endangered Lowland Rainforest present at HMAS Albatross

The further sampling and analysis is expected to be finalised and published in an addendum to the HHERA in mid-2018.

Defence is also developing a PFAS Management Area Plan for Albatross. The aim of the plan is to manage potential risks of exposure to PFAS for humans and the environment. The plan will identify and prioritise management actions to address

human health, environmental and community issues, and will be implemented following the completion of site investigations.

A Community engagement session is planned for mid-2018 to present the PFAS Management Area Plan and the addendum to the HHERA.

In March 2017, Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation on, and in the surrounding area of, the Jervis Bay Range Facility (JBRF). Due to its close proximity to the JBRF, HMAS Creswell falls within the investigation area and will be considered in the JBRF investigation.

A DSI and a HHERA are currently underway as part of the environmental investigation at JBRF. The detailed environmental investigation at JBRF is expected to be completed in mid-2018. Preliminary results are available at:

<http://defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Docs/JervisBay/FactSheets/20171106JervisBayCWISUpdateFactsheet.pdf>

Once the JBRF investigation findings are finalised, Defence will hold a community engagement session to present the results to the community.

Further information is available on the [HMAS Albatross](#) and [JBRF](#) Investigation websites.