

Response provided to journalist:

The Gingin Detailed Site Investigation has not detected PFAS in any of the off-base samples, including bore water, collected from properties in the vicinity of Gingin Satellite Airfield. However, in one location PFAS was detected at the Site boundary above the PFAS health based guidance values for drinking water but below the recreational guidance values.

Defence is working with the Western Australian Water Corporation to test their bores South-West of the Site boundary. These bores are outside the investigation area and the testing is being done as a precautionary measure.

Defence has now commenced a Human Health Risk Assessment to better understand how people working at the base might be exposed to bore water containing PFAS and if there is an elevated exposure risk requiring management. It is important to note that personnel on the base do not use bore water for drinking purposes.

In addition, the investigation findings have determined an Ecological Risk Assessment is not required because no significant exposure risks to the local ecology (plants and animals) have been identified.

A Detailed Site Investigation Report, including the sampling results, and recent factsheets are publically available on the investigation website at:

www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Gingin/