

**Response provided to journalist
17 August 2018**

Questions:

Can you clarify the levels of PFAS found in the two on-base samples (at Salt Ash Air Weapons Range) and the extraction bores?

I also note that the on-base samples took place in June 2017, why was there a year gap between taking these samples and beginning the investigation?

Answers:

The concentrations of PFOS and PFHxS detected in the monitoring wells ranged from <0.01 to 0.25 µg/L, while PFOA readings did not exceed 0.01 µg/L.

For information on the sampling conducted on Hunter Water Extraction Bores, please contact Hunter Water Corporation.

Defence takes a risk-based approach when prioritising the order of PFAS environmental investigations, taking into account the historical use of firefighting foam and the known levels of PFAS at the site as well as industry's capacity to undertake the investigation. Defence commenced the procurement process and has now engaged an environmental consultant to conduct a Preliminary Site Investigation to better understand the source, nature and extent of PFAS at and around the Salt Ash Air Weapons Range as well as to determine if a more detailed investigation is required.