

Response provided to journalist
19 July 2018

Questions:

I'm seeking information in relation to the investigation into the possible PFAS contamination at Blamey Barracks.

According to your website, Stage 1 desktop investigations and Stage 2 investigations - including assessment of soil and groundwater quality around some of the areas of concern at the barracks - have been completed.

What were the results of this investigation and what are the Department of Defence's next steps at Kapooka?

I'd appreciate any assistance you might be able to provide, as soon as possible.

Response:

The stage 1 and stage 2 investigations referred to on the defence website (<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Master/docs/NCRP/NSW/0315BlameyBarracksKapookaNSV.pdf>), were not related to PFAS. These investigations were related to other contaminant sources including asbestos and fuels. Targeted remediation works have been completed at the property, to remediate soils from asbestos.

The Department of Defence has been proactive in initiating an environmental program to investigate and manage PFAS on, and in the vicinity of, Defence sites as a result of the historical use of legacy firefighting foam.

After reviewing the available information, it has been determined that a detailed environmental investigation is required at, and in the area surrounding, Blamey Barracks (Kapooka).

Defence will hold a community information session in early August to discuss the commencement of the investigation and to provide the local community information about the investigation processes, as well as expected timeframes.

The details of the information session will be made publically available once they have been confirmed. This notification will be circulated via local print advertisements, a letterbox-drop to nearby residents, as well as through the Defence PFAS Investigation and Management Program website.