

Questions:

How long did the Oakey defence base know about the issue before releasing it to the public?

When was the public first notified of the PFAS contamination?

Was it years before testing was able to confirm there was a leak?

Why wasn't this information released to the public earlier?

Response to all:

In 2010, routine on-base monitoring at Army Aviation Centre Oakey identified the presence of PFAS.

In November 2012, PFAS was detected in the base pool and some groundwater samples (taken from monitoring wells near the base boundary).

In December 2012, Defence conducted a community engagement event to communicate the findings of on-base sampling.

In 2013, off-base sampling was conducted resulting in the commencement of a detailed environmental investigation into PFAS contamination in 2014.

As the knowledge of PFAS chemicals increases, Defence continues to develop its understanding of PFAS and its migratory habits. Based on the knowledge gained since 2012, Defence has adapted its practices and applied it to all ongoing PFAS environmental investigations.

To date, Defence has conducted eight formal community engagement events regarding the PFAS contamination at Oakey, as well as a number of informal meetings with landowners. Defence is committed to being open and transparent with the local communities, ensuring consistent updates are provided throughout the investigation process.