

Question:

RAAF Base Pearce Investigation

Does Defence envision that it will have to continue to provide bottled water to nearby residents for the next few years or even longer?

If yes, for how long?

What alternatives exist or are being contemplated?

Response:

Since the start of the investigation at RAAF Base Pearce, Defence has adopted a precautionary approach and provided alternative sources of drinking water as an interim measure to eligible residents who:

- are located in close proximity to the base; and
- do not have a town water connection; and
- rely on the use of a bore for drinking water; and/or
- source drinking water from a rainwater tank that contains, or has in the past contained, bore water.

The investigation is now almost complete, providing a greater understanding of the nature and extent of PFAS on, and in the vicinity of, RAAF Base Pearce.

As a result, the supply of alternative drinking water is being reviewed by Defence.

Alternative water will continue to be provided to residents until assessments and identification of future options are finalised. Residents will be contacted as the assessments progress to discuss their individual circumstances. This process will be discussed at the Community Walk-in Session on Tuesday 24 July 2018 and the Community Kiosk on Saturday 28 July 2018. Further details on the events can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Pearce/CommunityUpdates.asp>