

Response provided to journalist
13 June 2018

Questions

Looking to get an update on the DSI in the Bandiana Military Area.

- 1) What is the publication date of the DSI?
- 2) Will the report be publicly released in full?
- 3) How will the findings be shared with the community?
- 4) When will a decision be made about whether a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment will be undertaken and how the community be notified?

Response to all

Defence is currently finalising the second stage of the environmental investigation process, the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI), to better understand how PFAS moves through the environment at, and surrounding, Bandiana Military Area.

The DSI involves a comprehensive sampling program consisting of soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater collection in the investigation area on and near Bandiana to further assess the nature and extent of PFAS contamination.

The sampling for the DSI is now complete and a detailed report, including the sampling results, has been shared with the relevant government agencies and regulatory bodies for review.

Once the reviews are complete, the finalised report will be published and presented to the local community at a community walk-in session in the third quarter of 2018.

Based on the initial findings of the DSI, it has been determined that a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) will be conducted to assess the potential PFAS exposure risks to people, plants and animals. The HHERA methodology is being developed with sampling expected to commence shortly.

Defence has recently issued a community newsletter providing investigation information to community members who have requested updates on the investigation. The newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Bandiana/publications.asp>