

Defence Statement on Queensland Health Precautionary Advice

Defence has shared with relevant Queensland Authorities including the Department of Health all of its sampling results from its Detailed Environmental Investigation being conducted at RAAF Amberley. This facilitates those authorities being able to issue any precautionary advisories which are considered necessary to reduce exposure to PFAS. This is consistent with the approach taken for PFAS environmental investigations across all other jurisdictions.

All advisories arising from Defence PFAS Environmental Investigations have been issued by the relevant state or territory environmental health regulator. Defence does not have an environmental health regulatory role, however, it widely publicises these advisories in all engagements it undertakes with community members.

In April 2018 as part of the PFAS investigation at and around RAAF Base Amberley, initial testing for PFAS was conducted on seafood (mullet, catfish and eel) in the Bremer River and Warrill Creek. As per standard practice, Defence provided the results of this testing to Queensland Health as the appropriate authority.

Queensland Health conducted an assessment using the initial testing results and has issued the precautionary advice that fish caught in the Bremer River or Warrill Creek near RAAF Base Amberley should not be consumed.

Further testing and analysis will be carried out by Defence as part of the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) being undertaken as part of the environmental investigation. This testing will include tests of other species of more popular edible fish in the area.

Defence is committed to regularly updating the community throughout the investigation and will be letter box dropping all residents in the Investigation Area detailing this precautionary advice and updating the community on further sampling to be conducted in the process of finalising the HHRA.

This is precautionary advice, based on preliminary test results, and we will keep the community and recreational fishers updated as the investigation progresses.