

Response provided to journalist  
22 June 2018

**Questions:**

Has Defence issued any advice to farmers or landowners in the vicinity of RAAF Base East Sale regarding home consumption of meat, offal and milk from the animals they raise?

How many residents have they issued that advice to? Over what time period? How has the department communicated this advice to affected landowners/residents?

Is this advice based on the Interim Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment released by the department in December?

**Response:**

Defence is conducting a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) as part of the detailed environmental investigation on, and in the surrounding area of, RAAF Base East Sale. The HHERA will assess the potential PFAS exposure risks to people, plants and animals within the Investigation Area.

In December 2017, Defence released an Interim HHERA to provide the community with advice on the progress and findings of the investigation. The interim HHERA found livestock health and consumption of meat, offal and milk to be low and acceptable risk off base within the investigation area. Consumption of livestock raised on Defence owned grazing land (onbase) was identified as being a pathway for potentially elevated exposure to PFAS and additional data was required to further assess this exposure pathway. This information was presented to the community on 7 December 2017 at a community walk-in session and all sampling results have been provided to property owners where sampling was conducted.

There has been no precautionary advice issued by state authorities relating to the consumption of meat, offal and milk from livestock within the investigation area based on the findings of Interim HHERA findings.

All testing for the final HHERA is now complete and a report is currently being prepared which will include further analysis on-base livestock. The final HHERA Report will be shared to relevant state agencies for review before being finalised in the third quarter of 2018. Upon completion, Defence will hold a community walk-in session to present the key findings of the HHERA and advise of the next steps.