

Questions:

I'd like to get some information about the current situation for residents in Bullsbrook, WA following PFAS contamination in the groundwater.

Could you please provide responses to the following questions?

- How long have you been providing bottled water to residents in Bullsbrook, WA?
- How many bottles of water have you supplied to Bullsbrook residents since contamination was identified?
- What's being done to treat the contaminated sites?
- I understand final results of the water investigation are still to be released. Do you know when these are due to be released to the public?

Response:

In mid-2016, Defence commenced supplying alternative (bottled) water as a precautionary means of minimising the potential exposure risk to PFAS for residents who meet the following criteria: are living within the vicinity of RAAF Pearce; do not have a town water connection; and rely on the use of a bore for drinking water.

As at 16 February 2018, Defence is providing alternative drinking water to 117 properties in the vicinity of RAAF Base Pearce.

In February 2018, Defence commenced conducting additional private bore sampling where people are receiving alternative water and whose property bore has not been sampled. The results of these samples will help Defence to determine the ongoing supply or withdrawal of this alternative water, once the current environmental investigation is complete. If required, long term arrangements for the provision of alternative water will be considered based on the outcomes of the investigation.

Supply will continue to any property where detections of PFAS exceed the Health Based Guidance Values for drinking water.

The Detailed Site Investigation and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment reports are scheduled for publication in the second and third quarter of 2018, respectively. Interim findings from these activities were presented at a Community Walk-In Session in November 2017. The factsheet for which, is available at: <http://defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Pearce/Factsheets/20171128DSIInvestigationUpdateFactsheetNovember2017.pdf>

The findings of the Detailed Site Investigation and Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment will inform management and remediation works in and around RAAF Base Pearce.