

**Questions:**

Re: Wagga PFAS Investigation

Can you please confirm the exact date the findings from the detailed investigation will be released, our current reports say April?

Testing has begun on the Murrumbidgee River, what sort of testing is taking place? Why is it taking place? And what findings are there so far?

You are now moving to conduct a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment – that means the findings are quite serious. Can you tell us just when that will start and what effects it will have on the local population?

**Response to all:**

In May 2017, Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation to understand the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on, and surrounding, RAAF Base Wagga.

The detailed site investigation (DSI) is currently underway. The DSI involves on- and off-base sampling, including the sampling of soil, surface water and ground water on properties and environmental features surrounding RAAF Base Wagga, including the Murrumbidgee River. Samples are taken and analysed to determine how far PFAS has migrated from source areas and at what concentrations. The sampling results will be published in a DSI report due to be finalised and presented to the community late in the first half of 2018.

Based on the initial findings of the DSI, Defence commenced a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) in March 2018. The detailed planning and methodology for the HHERA is currently being finalised. The decision to undertake a HHERA does not necessarily indicate that contamination is extensive. A HHERA is conducted to evaluate potential risks to the community and ecology, and inform future actions to manage risks.

Both the DSI and HHERA will be reviewed by the relevant government agencies and regulatory bodies. Once finalised, the findings of the reports will be released to the Wagga community.

Further information on the Wagga investigation is available at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Wagga/>