

Questions

Just wondering if Defence has any comment to make about EPA statements that

"HMAS Albatross is a source of PFAS in the Shoalhaven River."

And

"The source of the contamination in Currumbene Creek is likely to be HMAS Albatross."

- What is the next step for Defence?
- Remediation etc - compensation?

Are there any more community information drop in sessions planned for the Shoalhaven?

Response to all

As part of the ongoing HMAS Albatross PFAS Investigation, Defence has tested samples from Currumbene Creek and the Shoalhaven River. PFAS was detected in some of these samples.

The findings of the investigation indicate Albatross is the likely source of PFAS contamination in Currumbene creek and a likely, but not sole, contributor to PFAS contamination in the Shoalhaven River.

Defence has been working closely with the New South Wales (NSW) Government throughout the Investigation and has provided the NSW Environment Protection Authority with all sample results.

The next step for the investigation is to complete an addendum to the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment, which will assess the risks to fishers in Currumbene Creek. This addendum is due to be released in mid-2018.

Defence is committed to keeping the community around Albatross informed and has been in regular contact with the community to communicate the latest investigation findings. The next community information session will be held in mid-2018 to present the findings of the Addendum to the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment.

Defence has also started developing a PFAS Management Area Plan which will use the findings of the investigation to tailor management activities for the unique conditions around Albatross. The PFAS Management Area Plan is expected to be complete in late 2018.