

## **Response to Journalist 10 October 2018**

### **Questions**

We have been in contact previously and I just wanted to chase up a few things in regards to Wreck Bay.

- In a previous statement you said 'Defence is currently finalising the Detailed Site Investigation Report and Human Health Risk Assessment Report. The findings of these reports are expected to be published and presented at a community walk-in session before the end of this year'. When can we expect this to happen?
- What is Consultants GHD involvement with the Wreck bay contamination investigation?
- What originally brought attention to the contaminated creek?
- What areas are being subject to this investigation?
- Are you able to clarify the exact time investigations began and when the Indigenous community gave their approval, was this before the investigation commenced or during?

### **Response**

Defence expects to hold a community walk-in session in December, to provide the community an update on the detailed environmental investigation into PFAS at, and around, the Jervis Bay Range Facility. The Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) and Human Health Risk Assessment results will be discussed at the session, planned to coincide with the completion of both. Event details will be advertised through local print media and on the project website at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/JervisBay/Default.asp>

In January 2017, Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation into the presence of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and in the vicinity of Jervis Bay Range Facility following the results of a Preliminary Sampling Program (PSP) conducted in 2016. GHD have been engaged by Defence as the independent environmental consultants to conduct the investigation in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (NEPM). The NEPM was established by Commonwealth legislation and incorporated into States and Territory legislation to provide a nationally consistent approach in the assessment of site contamination.

The Investigation Area includes Jervis Bay Range Facility, HMAS Creswell and areas around Jervis Bay Village, Wreck Bay Village and Booderee National Park. The map of the Investigation Area can be found at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Docs/JervisBay/FactSheets/201809CommunityNewsletterIssue01.pdf>

Access permission was granted prior to any drilling or sampling on Aboriginal lands. Throughout the DSI, the GHD field team has relied on the assistance of cultural advisors to guide the team appropriately through Aboriginal lands, and to observe cultural protocols during drilling and sample collection. Defence is grateful for the assistance provided by the local community in undertaking these investigations.