

**Response provided to journalist
8 October 2018**

Questions:

I'm doing a small story to let people know there is another community update on the detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at RAAF Williams (Laverton) and nearby areas.

May I please obtain some comments from Defence in relation to what has happened since the last meeting when they were about to commence water testing in the area.

Response:

In August 2018, Defence commenced a detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at and surrounding RAAF Williams (Laverton).

The investigation is being undertaken in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999 (NEPM). The NEPM was established by Commonwealth legislation and incorporated into the laws of each of the States and Territories to provide a nationally consistent approach in the assessment of site contamination.

The decision to conduct the investigation was based on the findings of a preliminary site investigation into the use and storage of legacy firefighting foam at RAAF Williams (Laverton). The findings informed a Sampling Analysis and Quality Plan to guide the field work that is being conducted as part of the Detailed Site Investigation (DSI).

The DSI involves comprehensive on-base sampling and analysis to further assess the extent of PFAS contamination. Additional sampling will be undertaken off-base to establish the potential extent of off-base PFAS migration. Soil, surface water, groundwater and sediment sampling will be conducted. Due to the comprehensive nature of the DSI, the final report is not expected to be published until the second quarter of 2019.