

**Response provided to journalist
01 February 2019**

Questions

Can Defence please provide an update on the latest results of the testing which was to be conducted following the release of the report into PFAS contamination within and near RAAF Edinburgh Air Base in December 2018?

Has the next round of testing in nearby suburbs, waterways, private properties and horticultural properties started and what are the results. ie has further PFAS contamination been detected. If so, where?

What are residents/property owners being told? Is Defence circulating any information to affected stakeholders? If so, can this information please be provided?

Response to all

In December 2018, Defence completed a Detailed Site Investigation into the nature and extent of PFAS at RAAF Base Edinburgh and nearby areas. The Detailed Site Investigation involved an extensive sampling program on and off-base to collect information and better understand how PFAS moves through the environment. The report is available on the investigation website at www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/edinburgh.

The next step in the investigation is the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA). The HHERA will assess the key exposure pathways and identify any risks of PFAS exposure to people, plants and animals. Defence has completed additional sampling to inform the HHERA and is currently analysing the sampling data.

Defence will update the Detailed Site Investigation Report to fill minor data gaps and include results of the HHERA sampling.

In addition, a PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) is being developed to outline appropriate options for PFAS remediation and management.

Defence expects to finalise the HHERA, update the Detailed Site Investigation Report and PMAP and present the findings to the community in the second quarter of 2019.

Defence regularly engages with the community surrounding the Base to keep them up to date with investigation findings. Updates are provided through the investigation website, newsletters, factsheets, community events and the dedicated Edinburgh information line. The most recent published communications products were distributed as part of the community information session on 11 December 2018 and are available on the investigation website.

Investigation reports are finalised after a thorough review process involving relevant State Agencies and an independent auditor. Sampling results are not released independently of this review process.