

DEFENCE MEDIA RELEASE

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Defence completes PFAS environmental investigation at Williamtown

Defence is holding a community walk-in session at the Murrook Cultural Centre today, to discuss the results of the detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at RAAF Base Williamtown and nearby areas.

The focus of the session is the 2018 Ecological Risk Assessment Report, which outlines PFAS exposure risks for plants and animals within the Williamtown Management Area.

The Ecological Risk Assessment found that the main PFAS exposure-risks for plants and animals are the accumulation of PFAS in the food chain and exposure to PFAS from impacted water flowing from the Moors and Dawsons drains.

Defence has also completed a water monitoring program to better understand the distribution of PFAS in ground- and surface-water.

The publication of the Ecological Risk Assessment concludes the environmental investigation conducted at Williamtown in accordance with the National Environment Protection Measure.

With the conclusion of the investigation, Defence remains committed to working with the community, and to continue its active involvement in the remediation and management of PFAS in Williamtown.

Also to be discussed at the meeting is the progress of the PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP), which will provide recommendations for the reduction of PFAS exposure-risks as well as a plan for ongoing monitoring.

The PMAP, which is in the final stages of development, will be reviewed by the NSW PFAS Expert Panel before being finalised, which is expected before the end of 2018.

The Ecological Risk Assessment Report can be viewed at:
www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/williamtown/publications.asp