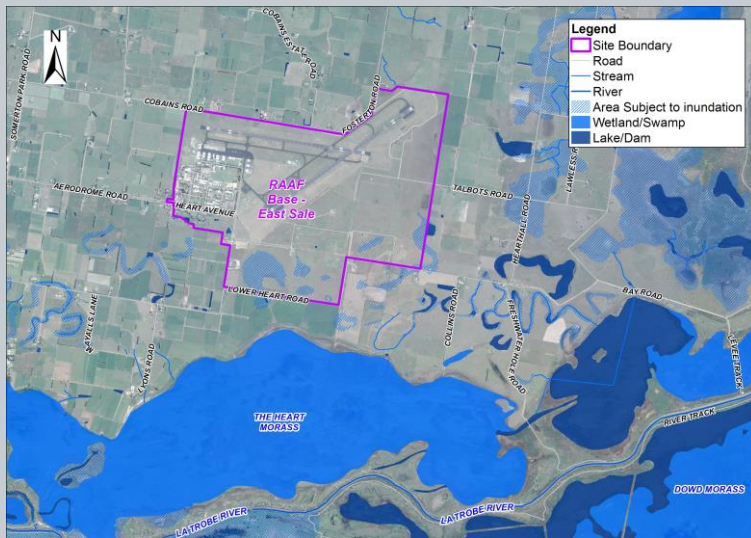




# RAAF Base East Sale – Environmental Investigation Project

## Background to the investigation

The Department of Defence (Defence) has engaged an independent environmental consultant to undertake an environmental investigation on, and in the vicinity of, RAAF East Sale (the base).



RAAF Base East Sale (outlined in purple) and surrounds

The investigation is part of Defence’s review of a number of its sites around Australia that used legacy aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) for fire-fighting, which contained per/polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including perfluorooctane sulfonate, known as PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid, known as PFOA. Defence has phased out the use of the old foams that contained PFOS and PFOA as active ingredients and is proactively managing legacy contamination across its estate.

All detailed environmental investigations are undertaken by experienced environmental services providers and are in accordance with the National Environmental Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure (NEPM).

## What investigation activity has occurred to date?

The RAAF East Sale ‘preliminary site investigation’ started in May 2016, and has included:

- Providing information to the community via a dedicated project website, project fact sheets and an introductory community information session in May 2016.
- Surveying residents regarding their water use.
- Consulting with key Victorian and local government stakeholders.
- Reviewing site history for AFFF use and identifying sources of PFAS.
- Collecting and analysing on- and off-base groundwater, surface water and sediment samples including from public lands and residential properties in close proximity to the base.
- Developing a sampling and analysis plan for the next stage of the process - the ‘detailed site investigation’.

### Upcoming community information session

The next community information session will be held to support the release of the ‘preliminary site investigation’ report. It will provide the community with an overview of the report’s key findings and results. Details are:

**Tuesday 11 October 2016 from 7:00pm**  
**Sale Baptist Church, Princes Highway**  
**(opposite Cobains Rd) Sale, Victoria.**

To register an interest in attending this event please contact the Project Information Line 1800 793 201 or via email: [eastsale.defence@sensversa.com.au](mailto:eastsale.defence@sensversa.com.au)





## Investigation activity to follow

The 'detailed site investigation' will commence in September 2016, and includes:

- More comprehensive sampling both on and off-base, including:
  - Targeted investigation of soil and groundwater in on-site areas where firefighting foams were used.
  - Broad soil sampling across the wider base areas.
  - Investigation of sediment and surface water in drainage lines on-base and extending off-base.
  - Collection of paired soil and grass samples in targeted areas used for grazing.
  - Collection of surface water and sediment from key human health and ecological receptor locations.
- Investigating how PFAS may move through the environment on- and off-base and preparing a detailed site investigation report.
- As the data is collected, ongoing assessment of potential risks to human health or the environment will be undertaken. A Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment will be prepared, if required.

## Investigation Outcomes

Defence provides the environmental investigation reports to relevant government stakeholders such as Vic EPA, and Departments of Health and Human Services. This ensures they have current information on which to inform their management decisions.

Once detailed environmental investigation reports are finalised and publicly released, Defence will consult with residents, businesses and local stakeholders on the findings.

## Further Information?

Defence is committed to regularly updating the community throughout the investigation including at key points when investigation reports are released. The project website will be updated, and community information sessions and factsheets will be provided as the investigation progresses.

If you have any enquiries or requests relating to individual properties, please contact the Defence project team.

If you live in the vicinity of the base, have not been contacted by Defence, and rely on bore water for drinking, please visit the project website for more information or contact 1800 793 201 to discuss possible management strategies.

## Contact the Project Team



1800 365 414



[www.defence.gov.au/id/eastsale/](http://www.defence.gov.au/id/eastsale/)



PFASDefenceCoordination@golder.com.au



RAAF Base East Sale

Environmental Investigation Project

PO Box 165

Collins Street West Post Shop Melbourne  
VIC 8007

Media enquiries should be directed to the Defence media centre on (02) 6127 1999 or email [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

