



### About the Investigation

The Department of Defence (Defence) is finalising a detailed environmental investigation to better understand the extent and levels of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) resulting from historical use of fire fighting foams on, and in the vicinity of Army Aviation Centre Oakey (AACO).

To date, the investigation has included the completion of a detailed Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), including ground water modelling, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and a Preliminary Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA).

### Environmental Investigation

Following the completion of these assessments, it was identified that data gaps remained in some portions of the Investigation Area. As a result further works will be conducted to update and refine the 2016 assessment reports.

The additional works commenced in January 2017 with sampling of surface water, groundwater, soil sediment and biota (flora and fauna, including aquatic), and will continue through to approximately October 2017.

These works will also include the following activities:

- Research into the uptake of PFAS in fruit and vegetables;
- Research into the uptake of PFAS in eggs;
- Seafood sampling and analysis;
- Additional surface water data collection and analysis;
- Additional groundwater data collection and analysis;
- Additional sediment data collection and analysis; and
- Potentially, livestock sampling and analysis (this is still under consideration with both the State and Commonwealth Governments - Defence will inform the public once livestock sampling viability has been confirmed).

This phase of the investigation will be completed and the reports published in late 2017. The reports will take into consideration any changes in national guidelines which may occur prior to the completion of the investigations.

As part of the 2017 investigation, Defence is conducting two separate sampling programs. These programs are:

- Environmental Investigation Sampling, and
- Residential Annual Water Sampling.

### Environmental Investigation Sampling

Environmental Investigation sampling will be used to refine and update the ESA, HHRA and Preliminary ERA and to inform the development of an Ongoing Monitoring Plan. If a resident's property is identified for sampling as part of the Environmental Investigation, Defence will contact the resident to discuss further.

Samples to be collected and tested:	Number of samples: <i>Actual sample numbers collected are subject to change, depending on site conditions</i>
Groundwater, surface water, soil and sediment	Approximately 800 samples from on and offsite locations
Biota, including seafood, eggs, fauna, fruit and vegetables	Approximately 60 samples from offsite locations.

### Results publication

Landholders will be provided with two options relating to how Defence uses the data obtained from their property.

The options are:

**OPTION 1:** The data will be used to inform the Environmental Investigation and the sampling locations may be visually identifiable. The data obtained will be included in tables, spread sheets and graphs, and discussed in the interpretation and analysis sections of the reports. The location of the samples collected will be presented as colour-coded dots on maps that will be included in the reports and made publicly available.

**OPTION 2:** The data will be used to inform the Environmental Investigation and the sampling locations will NOT be visually identifiable. The data obtained will be included in tables, spread sheets and graphs, and discussed in the interpretation and analysis sections of the reports. The location of the samples collected from landholder property will NOT be presented as colour-coded dots on maps that will be included in the reports and made publicly available.

The names and addresses of the property owners who choose to allow the data to be used in the Environmental Investigations will not be shown in any investigation documents.

Where landholders do not grant Defence permission to include their data in the reports as per OPTION 1 or 2 above, Defence will not collect any samples from the landholder's property. In this situation, Defence will identify an alternative location to conduct its sampling.

Landholders will receive test results letters prior to reports being published.





## Residential Annual Water Sampling

Defence will continue collecting water samples from properties within the Investigation Area to inform community members about PFAS concentrations in water on the property.

Water samples will be collected from operational bores, rainwater tanks and swimming pools (where tanks and pools are currently or were previously filled with bore water).

Defence will contact property owners where sampling has previously been conducted to offer re-sampling under the annual water sampling program. Samples will be taken from approximately 200 properties. Property owners can request their property be sampled by contacting the hotline. All requests will be assessed on a case by case basis.

### Results publication

Landholders will be provided with three options relating to how Defence uses the data obtained from their property. The options are:

**OPTION 1:** The data will be used to inform the Environmental Investigation and the sampling locations may be visually identifiable. The data obtained may be included in tables, spread sheets, graphs and discussed in the interpretation and analysis sections of the reports. The location of the samples collected may be presented as colour-coded dots on maps that may be included in the reports and made publically available.

**OPTION 2:** The data will be used to inform the Environmental Investigation and the sampling locations will NOT be visually identifiable. The data obtained may be included in tables, spread sheets, graphs and discussed in the interpretation and analysis sections of the reports. The location of the samples collected from landholder property will NOT be presented as colour-coded dots on maps that will be included in the reports and made publicly available.

**OPTION 3:** Data will not be used to inform the Environmental Investigation, and will not be published in any Environmental Investigation reports.

The names and addresses of the property owners who choose to allow the data to be used in the Environmental Investigations will not be shown identified in any investigation documents.

Defence will offer residential sampling to property owners regardless of the option they choose. Landholders will receive test results letters prior to reports being published.

### How information collected may be shared:

Defence is working cooperatively with a range of government agencies. Details of the sampling locations and test results may be shared with the independent site auditor, relevant Queensland government agencies and organisations and business entities directly involved in responding to the groundwater contamination.

Examples of Queensland organisations may include, but are not limited to:

- Department of Environment and Heritage Protection,
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines,
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries,
- Department of Premier and Cabinet,
- Department of Health, and
- Toowoomba Regional Council.

Further information on privacy can be found at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/ID/PFOSPFOA/Privacy.asp>

### Where can I get more information?

**Phone:** 1800 136 129 freecall (business hours)

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