



The Department of Defence is continuing to monitor the concentration and distribution of PFAS in the Army Aviation Centre Oakey (AACO) Management Area.

As part of the Ongoing Monitoring Program, Defence will be installing auto-samplers, supported by small weirs, which will measure surface water flow rates. Local residents may see field team members when installing the devices, or when retrieving water samples over the next few months.

### What is an auto-sampler?

Auto-samplers are solar powered devices that can be remotely activated to collect samples of surface water, typically during high rainfall events. Auto-samplers are generally encased in a metal box that is about one-metre wide and 1.5-metres high, and sits on a concrete slab. An example of an auto-sampler is shown in **Figure 1 below**.

### What is a weir?

Weirs regulate the flow of water to allow the auto-sampler unit to continually measure surface water flow rates. The weirs installed by Defence are non-permanent structures that sit within existing drainage paths. All water is still able to flow through or over the installations without causing flooding.

### What will the samples be tested for?

The samples will be tested for a range of PFAS compounds, including the compounds that have health guidelines and are associated with the historical use of firefighting foams by Defence.

These compounds are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

### How will sampling information be used?

The samples will provide valuable information on the concentration of PFAS in surface water and how PFAS is moving in the environment. Information collected will be published in a report and made publicly available. Properties surrounding the sampling sites will not be identified.

### Find out more

You can find out more about ongoing monitoring on the Defence website:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/oakey/>

If you have any questions about the auto-samplers or ongoing monitoring, please contact us on:

 1800 136 129 free call (business hours)

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Figure 1 – an example of an auto-sampler and weir at Dawson's Drain, RAAF Base Williamtown

