



## Investigation and Management Update

In November 2018, Defence completed a detailed environmental investigation into the nature and extent of per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on, and in the vicinity of, RAAF Base Pearce.

Since the conclusion of the environmental investigation, Defence has been:

- Sampling residential bores to assess the need for the ongoing supply of alternative drinking water;
- Reviewing potential long-term water supply options for affected residents in the Investigation Area; and
- Developing a PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP), including an Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP).

The next community information session is expected to be held in early May 2019 to provide information on the work Defence has been conducting since the completion of the investigation.

## Alternative drinking water supply review

Since the beginning of the investigation, Defence has been providing alternative drinking water as a precautionary measure to residents who fulfilled certain criteria within the Investigation Area.

As identified during the Community Kiosk held in November 2018, following completion of the Detailed Site Investigation and Human Health Risk Assessment reports, the current alternative water supply arrangements are under review. Defence is also examining potential long-term water supply options for affected residents in the Investigation Area. Some options under consideration include provision of rainwater tanks, scheme water connection and the replacement of existing bores with deep private bores.

A decision on alternative drinking water supplies and the long-term water supply options has not been made at this time. Further details on these items will be presented at the next community information session being planned for early May 2019.

## Ongoing Monitoring Sampling

A key component of the PMAP is an Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP). The purpose of the OMP is to monitor potential changes in the nature and extent of PFAS at the Base, and in the surrounding area.

Letters were recently distributed to a number of residences requesting permission to sample their bore as part of the OMP program. The selected bores were chosen to provide broad coverage of properties to the south-east, south and west of the Base. Selected bores also included all residential bores that to date have recorded PFAS concentrations above the Laboratory Limit of Reporting (LOR), as well as bores at properties neighbouring those where PFAS concentrations exceeded the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) assessment level for drinking water. This sampling is separate to previous sampling undertaken to determine the long term strategy for alternative water provision.

The OMP sampling commenced in early March and will be undertaken for an initial two year period. The results of the sampling will assist Defence to evaluate the progress of any management activities being undertaken, and identify where more needs to be done through monitoring and observing changes in concentration and geographical spread. The OMP will be regularly reviewed and, if required, changes to the monitoring frequency or locations of sampling may occur.

## Key Contacts

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### PFAS Investigation Website

[www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Pearce/](http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Pearce/)

### Department of Health PFAS

For health information please refer to the Department of Health via: [www.health.gov.au/pfas](http://www.health.gov.au/pfas) or 1800 941 180