



Australian Government
Department of Defence

1st October 2018

Ms Anne Sibbel
22 Turner Road
Bullsbrook WA 6084

Dear Ms Sibbel

Re: RAAF Base Pearce Environmental Investigation - Permission to access and conduct bore sampling on your property

The Department of Defence (Defence) is undertaking an environmental investigation at RAAF Base Pearce and surrounds into the use of legacy fire-fighting foams containing per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

As an interim measure, to reduce the potential risk of exposure to PFAS while the environmental investigation progressed, Defence provides alternative (bottled) drinking water to a number of properties in the vicinity of RAAF Base Pearce that are reliant on bore water and do not have a town water connection.

Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) and Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) reports were released on 24 July 2018. These provide information about the extent of PFAS contamination and an understanding of the potential exposure risks for people within the investigation area.

These reports are available at:

www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/pearce/publications.asp

Following the completion of the DSI and the HHRA, Defence is now reviewing the supply of alternative drinking water to confirm appropriate long term arrangements for affected residents.

Defence is seeking permission to access your property at *22 Turner Road Bullsbrook WA 6084* to collect a bore sample.

Analysis of the samples

The sample collected from your property will be analysed by an accredited laboratory. The primary PFAS of interest include perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

Other PFAS will also be analysed and reported as this helps to develop a more comprehensive understanding of PFAS within the investigation area. Defence notes that current Australian health based guidelines only apply to PFOS, PFHxS and PFOA.

Once the results of the analysis are technically verified, they will be provided to you with copy of the laboratory certificate of analysis. The physical samples will not be returned to you.

The results of the sample will help inform decisions by Defence in relation to an appropriate long-term arrangement for drinking water, which could include reversion to bore water or transition to a suitable alternative long-term water supply. Once the results of the sample are available, Defence will work with you to discuss what it means and options for long-term arrangements.

Management of information collected from your Property

Defence is working cooperatively with a range of government agencies, including relevant Commonwealth, State, Territory and local governments.

Information collected may be shared with Defence's environmental experts, relevant government agencies and business entities for the purposes of the environmental investigation, and the determination and implementation of any further action.

Use of information in the environmental investigation report

Information collected may be used in Investigation reports which will be publicly available and published on the project website (<http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Pearce>).

These reports may include maps showing sampling locations and test results, represented as colour-coded dots. The names and addresses of property owners will not be included in the report; however, individual properties may be visually identifiable from the maps (as described in Option 1 in the *Landowner Authority to Access Property and Acknowledgment form*). Similarly, while an investigation is ongoing, a map showing sampling locations and test results, represented as colour-coded dots, may be prepared and released to the public in order to keep the community informed.

There are three options available to you in relation to how Defence will manage data collected from your property. These options are outlined in the below '*Landowner Authority to Access.*'

Next steps

We propose to collect a bore sample between 10 October and 7 November 2018. Please contact the project team on 1800 987 614 to arrange a mutually convenient time for this sampling to occur.

If you agree to provide Defence access to your Property, please sign the below '*Landowner Authority to Access Property and Acknowledgment.*'

Once signed, please return a copy of this letter to the project team by email to bullsbrook.defence@ghd.com. Alternatively, please call the project team to arrange for it to be collected.

Additional information

Information about the environmental investigation is provided in the **enclosed** fact sheet *Community Update July 2018* for RAAF Base Pearce. Additional information is available on the project website at www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Pearce.

Please do not hesitate to contact the project team on **1800 987 614** or via email at bullsbrook.defence@ghd.com if you require any further information

On behalf of Defence



Brett Mitchell
WGCDR
Senior Australian Defence Force Officer RAAF Pearce

Enclosures:

1. Fact sheet – RAAF Base Pearce – Investigation Update July 2018

Landowner Authority to Access Property and Acknowledgment

In signing this letter, you:

- authorise Defence, through its contractor GHD, to enter your Property at 22 *Turner Road Bullsbrook WA 6084* to collect a bore sample;
- understand that the sample is being collected for Defence in accordance with the details outlined above; and
- acknowledge that you have read and understood this letter.

Please choose one option only to indicate how information collected from your Property is to be used in the environmental investigation report

OPTION 1: YES/ NO

- The data will be de-identified (i.e. names and addresses will not be shown).
- The de-identified data will be included in tables, spreadsheets and graphs, and discussed in the interpretation and analysis sections of investigation reports.
- The location of the samples collected from your Property *will* be presented as colour-coded dots on maps that will be included in investigation reports and made publically available.
- Your data *will* be presented in a way which would allow the data to be linked to your

OPTION 2: YES/NO

- As per Option 1 above, the data will be de-identified (i.e. names and addresses will not be shown).
- As per Option 1 above, the de-identified data will be included in tables, spreadsheets and graphs, and discussed in the interpretation and analysis sections of investigation reports.
- However, unlike Option 1 above, the location of the samples collected from your Property *will not* be presented as colour-coded dots on maps that will be included in investigation reports and made publically available.
- Additionally, unlike Option 1 above, your data *will not* be presented in a way which would allow the data to be linked to your Property.

OPTION 3: YES/NO

- You do not grant Defence permission to include your Property's data in investigation ports.

Signed: _____

Full name (printed): _____

Address: _____

Date: _____