

RAAF gives up chase for UFOs

CANBERRA: The RAAF in future will bother with UFOs only if they appear to be dangerous to national security.

The investigation of every sighting—the RAAF prefers to call them Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS)—has proved too expensive for Australia's aerial defence force.

The Defence Minister, Mr Scholes, said yesterday that the RAAF would now investigate fully only those UAS which suggested "a defence or national security implication."

While the RAAF would continue to be the first point of contact, UAS reports considered not to have defence or security implications would not be investigated further.

Instead, they would be recorded and the

would be given the address of civilian research organisations.

Mr Scholes said that in the past the RAAF's investigations of all reports of UAS had often proved "time-consuming, unproductive and had led to many man-hours of follow-up action by the RAAF and other agencies such as the Aviation Department and the Bureau of Meteorology."

In the past decade, there have been between 110 and 150 sightings reported to the RAAF each year.

A Defence Department spokesman said last night that of these all except about three

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