Justin Hamilton

[redacted]

CRG Member and Resident

27th June 2018

By upload https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/OnlineSubmission

To the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

C/o- the Chair Mr Andrew Laming MP

Parliamentary Inquiry into PFAS contamination: Commonwealth Government's management of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in and around Defence bases

Thank you for inviting public submissions to this Inquiry.

I am Justin Hamilton, Member of the Williamtown Contamination Investigation Community Reference Group (WCICRG) for the past 3 years as a community representative. I am the Public Officer for the Fullerton Cove Residents Action Group Inc. and I am a resident with private property now in the newly extended Williamtown Management Zone south from Williamtown RAAF base near Newcastle NSW.

I write this submission on behalf of my family and my community.

I have outlined my response in accordance with the terms of reference of the inquiry as follows:

a. the extent of contamination in and around Defence bases, including water, soil, other natural assets and built structures;

The Contamination was revealed to us by the Newcastle Herald and the ABC News in September 2015, not by Defence, the EPA or the Local Council who all knew well before, at least from 2002. The extent has never been defined. It cannot be as it is Migratory. The science behind Aecoms mapping of the plume is very questionable. It should be independently assessed at the very least.

Extract ABC News 15th September 2015

"The New South Wales Government has announced a multi-agency response to the contamination incident, caused by chemicals from firefighting foam that is no longer used at the base.

Residents have been told to stop eating local fish, oysters and locally-produced eggs, as well as milk from goats and dairy cows.

A Defence Commissioned Report has been finalised into contamination at the base.

It shows contamination in several drainage areas, on and off the site, migrating to the south, east and west in groundwater.

It notes all base areas investigated for groundwater contamination exceeded drinking water screening criteria.

Contamination was at its worst in old firefighting training pits.

The report notes the extent of offsite groundwater migration is yet to be delineated….

…The document also focused on soil contamination.

It says 230 soil samples were taken, with more than 70 above acceptable levels."

As a community we immediately joined and asked through the CRG for clarification of EXTENT through private soil sampling, drain sampling, surface water sampling, aquifer sampling, and water tank and bore sampling, air and blood sampling. Defence and other agencies refused on all counts except bore and tank water sampling. We requested tank and bore sampling at my farm in early 2016. Defence took the call, never followed up and never came and did testing. I assume because at the time we were outside the 'RED ZONE'. We explained in detail that the area is a flood plain with tidal drainage channels that run uphill in king tides governed by a flood gate system on a heavily contaminated ring drain. We explained that heavy rain causes inundation which spreads across farmland and links waterways together. We even told the EPA that their mapping was wrong as they had two flood gates shown as the source of contamination into the Fullerton Cove Ramsar Wetlands, (one of which was decommissioned in the 1950s and no longer in existence!) Trust in accuracy and definition of EXTENT was and remains extremely low in the government agencies and Defence reporting.

NSW EPA said that it was not an airborne contaminant. The community showed them the USA EPAs reporting that said it is airborne and likes to attach itself to salt air particles (we are a seaside suburb), only then did [redacted] from NSW EPA concede that it may be airborne. This is another example how EXTENT was poorly managed as all avenues of infection were never properly considered.

I refer you also to the NSW EPA 'WILLIAMTOWN CONTAMINATION CHRONOLOGY' document on their website for the period between 2012 and 23 / 12 / 2015 leading up to any public announcement.

Two very critical issues remain unresolved with regard to EXTENT

1.0 How can the extent be agreed when the polluter is in charge of reporting their own pollution? Who should have been in charge and acted on this instead"?

2.0 We have only the word of the polluter via the media that these Chemicals are the culprits, played down as 'Fire Fighting Foam'. What quantities are involved? Who has substantiated the volumes of pollution created verses volume of contaminate needed to create this disaster and who is accounting for what volumes are missing from storage? If it is fire foam leaching into the ground why is it in the RAAF sewer system and transpiration beds connected to potable local resident drinking water aquifers? What are all the pathways by which these contaminants have reached the aquifer and us. Only when this is defined and made public will EXTENT be verified.

The EPA's first guess at extent or affected areas was eventually published by the EPA in an underwhelming map which came to be known quickly as the 'Red Zone' map as someone put a glaring RED LINE around the suburbs surrounding the RAAF base. It was later updated in October 2015 and issued to the media and then the residents in an updated form with some expansion and some retracted areas. It was a PR debacle as it was incorrect.

The Flood plains of Williamtown, Salt Ash and Fullerton Cove are dependent on the farming table drains which run into Fullerton Cove and Tilligerry Creek, to clear inundation waters which runs off the RAAF base to the sea (1m in 10km cross fall) in north, east and south directions. We repeatedly told the EPA and all the agencies at public meetings and the CRG that this system was complex and could be best understood with help by the local community. We were ignored. Many mistakes have been made by Agencies due to lack of current local knowledge, mapping and

basic understanding of the hydrology of a nationally listed Groundwater Dependent and Surface Water Ecosystem.

The current Blue Zones (apparently less inflammatory than Red) show highly contaminated drains which run from Primary Management Zones through outer management zone. This is nonsensical when localised flooding events overflow drains regularly.

The EXTENT has not been clarified in all its forms. For example, The EPA told the CRG that there was no way these chemicals were air borne. They have since back flipped on this stance (see CRG Minutes). At a CRG meeting the Expert Panel's Hydrologist told the residents that there was no way the eastern edge of Fullerton Cove Road or Fern Bay could ever be affected as it is sited on a completely different aquifer system and not 'downstream' from the base. They told us that the coastal sand dunes along the eastern beachline feed a different aquifer and they are not contaminated so nor will this aquifer or farms be nearby. They were wrong. Why has a child 2 doors up from me been born with readings 40 times the safe limit and why have all the residents along the eastern edge of Fullerton Cove Road, now been included in the new 'Blue Zone' Management area? Is it overland flow, contaminated flooding risk, airborne risks or all of the above? Why have we been given free town water connection? The EXTENT of contamination is clearly still not defined.

Defence acknowledges that Lake Cochran is a source of on base contamination. Defence don't tell you that they have never cleaned Lake Cochran out completely. They have only ever pumped out half of it. It heavy rain events they turn off the pump as it become overworked and that the contaminated silt in the bottom of lake Cochran remain there, BEOLW to high water table mark and therefore constantly in contact with the underground aquifers. They also don't mention the other stormwater catchment storage dam right next to Newcastle Airport carparks and British Aerospace. This second dam we believe is regularly pumped out into public table drains (along with any contaminants) right before a heavy rain event to make room for extra dam water storage.

Extract Newcastle Herald October 8 2015

Toxic Truth: RAAF contamination zone extended

The expanded map released on Friday.

UPDATE: THE Environment Protection Authority has released this afternoon a new map of the expanded contamination zone around the RAAF Williamtown base.

By DONNA PAGE and DAMON CRONSHAW

THE environmental scandal engulfing Williamtown RAAF Base has widened…

Another round of testing will be conducted that could see the zone extended even further.

However, health authorities have dismissed residents' calls for human blood testing, saying it would have no value.

Instead, they would conduct a ''human health risk assessment''.

The expert panel tasked with examining the contamination threat met at Newcastle Airport on Thursday afternoon and later informed residents of the decision.

Newcastle councilor Michael Osborne, who attended the meeting on behalf of Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes, described the outcome as ''very concerning''.

''The reality is they don't have a handle on the extent of the contamination or what it means,'' he said.

''Right now they are conceding not enough sampling and testing has been done.

''More sampling will be carried out which could redefine the boundaries again.''

Cr Osborne said the human health risk assessment ''should have been done years ago''.

The chemicals PFOA and PFOS – contained in disused fire-retardant foams – were used on the RAAF base for 50 years to 2012.

In 2005, chemical company DuPont was fined almost $20million for failing to alert the US environmental regulator to the ''substantial risk of injury to human health or the environment'' caused by PFOA.

''This is a clear example of how not to manage an issue like this,'' Cr Osborne said.

''There has been a real failure from Defence and the NSW government agencies.''

Residents in the zone have been warned not to eat eggs from backyard chickens or use milk from cows or goats that have been drinking bore or surface water.

Fish, prawns and wild oysters caught in the area have also been banned.

b. the response of, and coordination between, agencies of the Commonwealth Government, including, but not limited to, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Health, the Department of the Environment and Energy, the Department of Defence and the Australian Defence Force;

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been missing in action. It is they who own this disaster. Several residents including myself have written to the Prime Minister extending an invitation to visit the affected area and families and workers. A standard no thank you response was received by email.

No strong Project Management Leadership has been given to the clean-up operation for this disaster The department of Premier and Cabinet have had mixed success in assisting co-ordination efforts, limited by State jurisdiction and Federal land boundaries. The Chair of the CRG, Jodie Calvert has persisted in the face of difficult circumstances. The Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter, Scot MacDonald has assisted in obtaining state funding for water connection and in achieving two Premiers to attend community meetings at the CRG. Both Premiers committed

assistance and committed town water connection to affected properties, however neither have affected Defence so as to stop the contamination leaving the base.

An Australian Defence Force representative, Steve 'Zed' Roberton stood up at the first public meeting in Stockton and said it is a RAAF problem and RAAF will fix it and compensate residents. He has never been seen again. Since then it has been a revolving door of Defence personnel.

The response from Defence is too slow, supported at a CRG meeting by Professor Mary O'Kane who attended along with members of the Scientific Committee. Ms O'Kane said "we are very worried about time, leading to extreme stress to industries" as she strongly urged Defence to raise their game around communication and responses back to the scientific committee.

The Defence Minister, Marise Payne visited the community. She made us meet with her on the RAAF base in an intimidating setting. She then released a letter of reply to our meeting in which carefully constructed semantics were offered to the community. Please refer to APPENDIX 2: LETTER TO DEFENCE MINISTER MARISE PAYNE JUNE 2016 ADDRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT FROM COMMUNITY AFTER HER LETTER TO COMMUNITY REPS WHICH LEFT MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

Defence claim they have spent $100 million on studies and yet the toxic chemical is still running off base.

c. communication and coordination with state and territory governments, local councils, affected local communities and businesses, and other interested stakeholders;

There have been many examples of poor organisation and poor communication between the Government Agencies and Defence toward residents and affected businesses on this issue. On behalf of affected communities the CRG community members drafted a letter to the CRG Chair on this very issue. A copy of this is attached at ANNEXURE 1 : LETTER TO CRG ADDRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT FROM COMMUNITY AFTER AMENDED CONTAMINATION MAP & POOR COMMUNICATION, NOVEMBER 2017.

Besides attending the CRG meetings and offering a belated (2.5 years) rates reduction the local council has been silent. Public land and council owned land such as the airport have been contaminated however there has been no swift or strong expectation or response by the council, no law suits I am aware of, and no demands on Defence to clean up their mess or compensate the affected residents or businesses. Now their planning documents require residents and land owners to undertake additional self-funded reporting and remediation works for any new building applications in affected areas. For a standard domestic home this can add tens of thousands of dollars more cost to their project.

d. the adequacy of health advice and testing of current and former defence and civilian personnel and members of the public exposed in and around Defence bases identified as potentially affected by contamination;

It was only through independent blood testing by community members outside the 'Red Zone' that we the public were able to prove that the contamination was effecting people further afield than the Red Zone so then finally the Department of Health took notice.

We the community representatives strongly advised people outside the original red zone to adopt precautionary principles which have now shown to be valid. This advice was contrary to advice from EPA where they told people outside red zone all was fine and did not need to be concerned to adopt precautionary advice.

My step-mother was diagnosed with leukaemia the day the water was connected to her home on Fullerton Cove road. For nearly 3 years she was told she was living outside the original red zone so

followed the EPAs advice and she continued to eat eggs and vegetables and irrigate with bore water. Now she is in the newly expanded investigation zone. She has had the voluntary blood testing now and her results are not back yet, after 3 months. The confusion and inadequacy of health advice is appalling. The day the new Blue Zone was announced EPA did a letterbox drop. They missed the entire end of Fullerton Cove road as they ran out of notices (how do you do this?) so she didn't get told officially. Her only support advice comes from the Residents Action Groups websites or going to confusing and intolerable public stalls designed obviously to separate and placate irate residents in an obvious crowd management technique.

e. the adequacy of Commonwealth and state and territory government environmental and human health standards and legislation, and any other relevant legislation;

I will leave this to Cain Gorfine to address and define as he is an expert in international standards now. Please refer to his submission.

f. remediation works at the bases;

Defence claims they have spent $100 million on studies and yet the toxic chemical is still running off base.

I will leave this point to Lindsay Clout to adequately respond as he is an expert in the attempted remediation procedures at the base. Please refer to his submission

g. what consideration has been given to understanding and addressing any financial impact to affected businesses and individuals.

My property is not zoned residential, it is zoned rural. It comprises 10 arable aces, with two houses, one of which has won a national housing MBA award. It is fully fenced, with machinery shed, paddocks, dressage arena, dams and swimming pool. It is situated between Nelson Bay and the City of Newcastle, 5 mins from beaches and The Hunter River, alongside a Ramsar wetlands national sanctuary. Newcastle is experiencing unprecedented growth and the Fullerton Cove region was identified as a major growth corridor in the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy and published in real estate journals and the Sydney Morning Herald in 2015 before this disaster hit. The RAAF base is expanding by $2 Billion, aged care and Fern Bay estates are expanding, and Stockton prices have quadrupled partly due to the University moving into Newcastle just a ferry ride away, the airport is expanding to become International and Kooragang island infrastructure including Tourle Street Bridge is being doubled in size for industry growth including the Joint Strike Fighters. Defence housing is booming. So why then are our properties going backwards and now worth less if not zero instead of what they should be worth? (our community have written valuations to prove this claim) – Because they are contaminated by Defence and the Prime Ministers Department.

Interestingly the DAREZ economic development zone site adjacent the airport has just been off-loaded by a private developer back to council. It contains a highly toxic transpiration beds from the RAAF sewer farm on it. When asked if he'd ever consider purchasing any land around the Williamtown Contamination Zone, the Hunters largest developer, Mr Hilton Grugeon stated to the Maitland Mercury Newspaper on 13 October 2017 he'd "never willingly go near it" "I wouldn't with contamination of that nature, there's never an outcome"

So if the Department of Defence and the Prime Ministers Department have not stopped the contamination leaving the base and have not attempted to clean it up off base then the answer is NO CONSIDERATION to my family or any of the affected families at all. Free water connection as access to safe drinking water, is not a consideration, it is a basic human right. We already had free water in the form of water tanks and a supposed clean and potable fresh water aquifer.

There is a Valuations Protocol titled 'Williamtown Investigation Zone & Contaminated Land' published on 27th June 2016. This was a rushed and ill thought through document which ignored the fact that most houses in the region were not connected to town water, it did not reference the fact that most properties are zoned rural not residential and to my knowledge has never been revisited now that management areas have been expanded or town water has been connected.

An earlier independent review, the 'Port Stephens Land Valuation Report' by Roberston and Robertson Valuers prepared by Mr Michael Tadros and Josh Etherington November 12, 2015 states:

'SIGNIFICANT VALUE CHANGES

Summary of Valuation changes to Residential Land

Residential Zoned Lands 7.86% from 2014 to 2015 (*before contamination was made public)

The residential market sector represents the largest segment in terms of entries and value within the Port Stephens valuation roll. An ongoing positive trend continues with value increase of 7.86% after the 2014 result of 2.3% increase after the four years of negative results.

Summary of Valuation Changes to Rural land

Non Urban Zoned Lands 6.99% from 2014 to 2015 (*before contamination was made public)

Rural/Environmental zoned lands (nonurban) comprises 19 components. Through the application of primary component factors, 17 components showed an increase with the remainder remaining unchanged.

The change in values is largely attributed the smaller lifestyle lot entries which have seen rises in the order of 5-16% increases over the valuation year.

…Significant issues and developments have been reported throughout the year, as they happen in the Monthly Progress Reports. Issues and developments reported have included:

Williamtown Contamination

A toxic leak of the fire fighting chemicals perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) from Williamtown RAAF base into surrounding properties and ground water was reported in local media in August. The chemicals were historically used in firefighting foams at the RAAF base. The EPA issue warnings to residents on 4th September advising of significant contamination issues in the vicinity of the Williamtown RAAF Base. We have identified those properties which are located within the 'exclusion zone' map provided by council and tagged these with a 'property identifier'. We have been in contact with the EPA. They have indicated they may also be able to provide a list of affected properties by lot/DP for comparison with our list. We obviously have no market evidence as yet on possible impact on values, however media reports are indicating commercial/mortgage valuations on affected ***properties reflecting 'zero' values'***

I cannot sell my home, I cannot move or conscionably let renters in, I cannot borrow against the property and no one can borrow to buy it from me. I cannot grow produce on rural zoned land. I am imprisoned by an act of environmental vandalism by a defence organisation chartered to protect me, and whose modus operandi is 'do nothing' off base.

In Conclusion,

The Williamtown, Fullerton Cove and surrounds area is a unique location in Port Stephens NSW, just 5 kms North of Newcastle and downstream from the Williamtown RAAF base. The PFAS contamination, after 3.5 years is still leaching off the base in a migratory plume. It still poisons the natural, once potable freshwater aquifer and high water table. Incidents of property value loss, business ruin, and financial hardship, emotional and psychological trauma are all ever increasing.

Defence claim they are taking steps to clean up the base. They claim they are spending millions. This is misleading and their way of controlling the science on management of the problem. Please don't be fooled by their media campaign. Lake Cochran has not been remediated. In heavy rain events the filter pumps are turned off, the lake fills back up again and the contaminated silt still sits on the lake floor below the local water table interacting with it. Contamination still runs off the base. Their own plume modelling suggests it could take up to 50 years to migrate to sea.

You may ask who should pay? If Defence knew in 2002 this chemical was an internationally recognised dangerous substance but they continued to use it, stockpile it, unsafely store it or dispose of it locally, then surely shouldn't they pay to clean it up and compensate the affected community?, especially if the manufacturer of the product told them to stop using it in 2012?

The only compensation that is suitable is full 100% original (b.c) market value to allow residents full autonomy to escape this location. The land is no longer safe to live on or farm. There also needs to be a health insurance scheme put in place for all the current and future victims with current or future linked illnesses which could likely eventuate due to exposure to this contamination.

ANNEXURE #1:

LETTER TO CRG ADDRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT FROM COMMUNITY AFTER AMENDED CONTAMINATION MAP & POOR COMMUNICATION NOVEMBER 2017.

Jodie Calvert | Principal Coordinator – Hunter

Chair – Williamtown Community Reference Group

Regional Coordination Branch, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Level 5, 26 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle NSW 2001

21st November 2017.

By email: jodie.calvert@dpc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Jodie,

Re: Contamination of Williamtown, Salt Ash and Fullerton Cove.

WILLIAMTOWN MANAGEMENT AREA STRATEGY BY EPA AND NSW GOVERNMENT

Thank you for inviting the community representatives to the recent 'informal CRG' Meeting at the Mercure Hotel in Williamtown on Sunday 19th November. We note the importance of the meeting, supported by those in attendance including, the expert Panel's NSW Chief Scientist Mary O'Kane, the EPA including Barry Buffier, Adam Gilligan and entourage, Department of Premier and Cabinet including Scott MacDonald, NSW Department of Health, Hunter Water, Port Stephens Council and CRG representatives for the community including fishers. A notable absence was Defence.

After 48hrs of time to consider the information provided we have collated some of our thoughts around this meeting and the contents of the submissions made. We provide this as feedback so that you may action it where appropriate to allow the communication to the public to become simple, transparent and accurate.

CARTOGRAPHY

The new Williamtown Management Area map dated 17th November 2017 has been produced by the NSW EPA as a high level pictorial. The title of the Map bears no mention of its purpose. If viewed in isolation it is vague and unrelated to any other document or issue. Should it not have a proper reference number, revision and relationship to its supporting publications?

The Map and drainage channel lines in particular are diagrammatic at best. There is no nomenclature on the map, no street names, no drain names (which exist), no boundaries or clarifications. The drains are incomplete. For example the 10ft drain has recently been diverted around the Marias Farm glasshouse project, causing devastating downstream flood modelling changes. This major diversion is not picked up. There are two symbols for Drains, one pink the other blue but without distinction between them. One is left to assume the blue is highly toxic and the pink about to soon be?

At approximately 1:6000 scale @A4, the general public will have incredible difficulty reading this map and deducing where their property lies. This is exacerbated by the boundary lines being somewhat loose. For example the Salt ash sports ground is shown to be half contaminated and half clear. It suggests that half (the west side) of the paddock is safe for the children to continue to ride their

horses, water them and irrigate the dressage arena from. There are current bore water taps being used on this side too!

We suggest that a high resolution Map, addressing the points in this letter and providing clarity on exactly where the boundaries lie, is made available as soon as possible.

DATA

We have been told the reason for this announcement being made on a Sunday, with a wholly inadequate 48 hrs notice to the community, is because of new data being made available. The data referred to appears to date from AECOM's report in August 2016 (and therefore was presumably gathered some months before that). This raises a number of fundamental questions on which we would appreciate your answers.

- Why has the EPA sat of this information for so long and why did residents then get 48 hours' notice of a critical meeting with residents door-knocked the same day?

- Why in June 2016 did the EPA publicly say the Red Zone would not be extended and when exactly did they change their mind? Are they confident it won't be extended again?

- Not that you can easily view the map of the extended zone but can you explain why for example the Red Zone line appears to skirt some critical areas such as drinking water sources and sand mines, and why it is that some areas seem to have now dropped out of the Red Zone?

BANKING

No mention was given to the public about how this new plan of attack, or defence, whichever way we choose to look at it, will further affect banking, loans and people's mortgages, or property sales. It must be detrimental (particularly bearing in mind the extended projection to 2050) and therefore it would be reasonable to assume that a financial component to this public announcement has been given due consideration and is part of your strategy. Can you please let us know what this is? Has there been any continuing dialogue between State or Federal officials and the lending banks about their policies towards these new Management Zones?

VALUATIONS

What effect will this new strategy have on existing property valuations and any future valuations? What amendment to the valuers' playbook (the one produced in draft which we have never been presented the final version of) will now occur to take on board this New Management Zone philosophy? Could you please furnish us with this information immediately if it has been part of the strategy prior to releasing this document for public consumption?

RAMSAR WETLANDS

Again there was no mention of the effect this is having on the Ramsar Wetlands and its international treaty status, and the protected wildlife which migrate to and from the cove. When will this be addressed? Is the Government in breach of its international obligations - including the obligation to notify Ramsar once a pollution event has occurred? What is the proposed plan to remediate the affected ecosystems?

TOPOGRAPY

It was quite alarming to be told by Adam Gilligan of the EPA, that after two years of considered community advice, only now does he concede that the contamination is affected by more than just the

expert panel's hydrologists' desktop theories of groundwater. Now he agrees that topography including drains and surface water are contributing factors. We have been proclaiming our residents understanding of the topography, the flood plain, the tidal channels and the patterns of natural water inundation for over two years. The shift in thinking now to a more obvious common sense cumulative approach is appreciated, albeit sadly it has come very slow and is exasperatingly difficult for our community to have had to watch happen, it's like watching contaminated grass grow…literally!

If the officials had listened at the outset to local people who understand the area and how the water flows, as a result of living there for generations, then much time and bother would have been saved. I hope this lesson is learned as involving community expertise should always be a fundamental part of contamination project management.

DAREZ LANDS

We note that a predominant amount of land within the New Primary Management Zone, is off base and part of the original DAREZ economic development lands. This land contains the transpiration beds from the Defence Base sewer system. How is the Defence Base sewerage transpiration beds not on Defence land? How could they have knowingly been sold without full disclosure of their levels of contamination? This land features heavily in your blue zone so after two years you must have a detailed remediation plan ready for this site. What is it?

MISSMANAGED DOOR KNOCK

It has been less than two days and our communities are now more stressed than ever. The door knock by EPA and HEALTH on a Sunday was half baked. Residents in Lemon Tree Passage Road, Williamtown and Fullerton Cove were completely left out. These residents were home all day and were never door knocked or letterbox dropped. You got all the community representatives out on a Sunday, unpaid volunteers, yet your paid staff failed to complete a simple task which has now increased our resident's anxiety considerably. Why did you do this to us?

If you told us that 250 properties were now added to the contaminated list and supposedly you had 250 letterbox packs printed, then when you got to the end and some were left over, didn't someone think, oh shit we forgot someone? Or if you ran out then are there in fact more than 250 properties now affected, at an average as you say of 2.5 persons per property (ignoring granny flats, dual ocs and community titles) say 625 people? Can you please ensure that it is completed and reaches everyone?

Prepared by the CRG Community Representatives.

Lindsay Clout, President FCRAG Inc.

Justin Hamilton, FCRAG Inc.

Nick Marshall, President Salt Ash Community First

Kim Smith, Salt Ash Community First

Cain Gorfine, President Williamtown and Surrounds

Rhianna Gorfine, Williamtown and Surrounds

On behalf of the Contaminated Communities of Williamtown, Fullerton Cove, Salt Ash and surrounds.

ANNEXURE #2:

LETTER TO DEFENCE MINISTER MARISE PAYNE JUNE 2016 ADDRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT FROM COMMUNITY AFTER HER LETTER TO COMMUNITY REPS WHICH LEFT MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.

Our Ref: FRACG Meeting 21/06/2016

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES MEETING WITH FEDERAL MINISTER FOR DEFENCE MARISE PAYNE FOR WILLIAMTOWN PFOS/PFOA CONTAMINATION

Date21/06/2016

Venue: Williamtown RAAF Base NSW

Present: Karen Howard, Liberal Candidate + Community Members of the NSW WCICRG

RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM MINISTER PAYNE TO COMMUNITY REPS DATED 26th JULY2016.

Good Morning Jodie

Thank you for the opportunity to respond direct to the Minister. Firstly our thoughts on the letter with our questions to follow. It feels like the terms are carefully selected offering limited confirmation if any of most items raised.

Why is she seeking 'management of detection', it is already detected. We need treatment and cure. PLEASE STOP THE LEAK, CLEAN UP THE SITE.

Again the Minister says "on and in the vicinity of the RAAF Base Williamtown". What about under, within, throughout and across all surrounding and affected properties and persons. The Aquifer is destroyed so carefully chosen words that may limit our situation seem inadequate.

This careful tone throughout the letter is evident in most sentences by the employment of terms and words such as:-

Coming months

Determine next steps

Consider any feedback

Pending finalising of reports

Financial assurance

How to best progress

Still finalising terms of reference

Appointing (rather than appointed)

In coming days

In coming weeks

Again we urge the response from Defence please to focus on Stopping the leak and cleaning up the hot spots on base and off base urgently in concurrence with the reporting and publishing of findings.

QUESTIONS:

1. Soil, groundwater sediment and surface water. Where outside the base were tests other than bore samples taken?

2. How is a release date been finalised for the reports to be released if Defence is waiting for a response from the EPA and the expert panel before the reports can be finalised?

3. Why is the 9th August chosen for the community information session as that is the census night?

4. Considering the State government has provided $4 million for water connection inside the exclusion zone and connection to properties has already started, is the $3.5 million promised, for properties outside and adjacent to the exclusion zone who are under the same restrictions as properties inside the exclusion zone, to receive free water?

5. Who is the credentialed reviewer of the EN Health policy?

6. "ESA on RAAF Base as well as further afield" – how far is further afield?

Regards

J. Hamilton and L. Clout

Public Officer + President

FCRAG Inc