

Dianne Priddle and David Jefferis

12<sup>TH</sup> June 2018

Berwick Stud

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Committee Secretary

Joint Standing Committee on

Foreign Affairs

Defence and Trade

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Dear Committee,

In short as a person who has been at the forefront and living with a heavy veil of contamination on our Stud property in the area of Oakey. **We have seen no consideration to understand or dealing with the financial impact and the effect on our Stud business here at Oakey.**

We have spoken at the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate Inquiry in March 2016 here at Oakey and had the hope, that the government was addressing our problems. The following day we were visited by The Defence Legal Team Michael Lysewycz to our farm. This meeting came to nothing and not one person was able to confirm, what that meetings outcome was for us at Berwick Stud. **From the Senate Inquiry No. 5 recommendation has been completely lost by the Government.**

David and I went to Canberra in November 2016 after many months of not having answers or understanding by this Government. Meetings were arranged from our persistence at wanting to be heard on this matter. We spoke with Dan Tehan, The Prime Minister Chief of staff, Defence Opposition and Cross Benches. Nothing came from our trip to Canberra, not even a letter from the people we saw at Parliament House in Canberra. **Understanding or addressing the impact this is having we have seen no evidence at our business.**

We have been to every public Defence meeting since 2015, AECOM/Defence meetings and University of Canberra meetings. We have urged at these meetings for answers and outcomes now, not into the far future. As you can see we live this contamination and it's far too long for producers

like ourselves. Have we seen no understanding, consideration or had our financial impact addressed **the resounding answer is NO.**

I say to this committee as producers we have the burden three times over we live it, we work on the ground with our animals, they drink from the creek and bore, our business has the impact from this contamination. AECOM/ Defence **modelling tells us this contamination is moving at 100 meters a year heading South West, that is us at Berwick Stud. We will be consumed by this if not now, it's only time. Consideration, impact and financial burden we feel has not been given to us at all 3 1/2 years and counting.**

In April 2017 the Prime Minister visited us at our farm in Oakey. We have had the then Task Force Minister James McGarth to our farm 4 times in 2017. **With each visit not one thing was brought to the table on addressing impact, the affect we were all facing by the problem of PFOS and PFOA.**

I have written, lobbied Ministers from all sides of the political parties to move forward with addressing the financial issues we face whether it be like for like in a clean area, purchasing or compensation whatever the term, but do something now, not in another year or so. The lack of any urgency in dealing with our lives, our income and our future is a stain on this government for the people living this mess. To date not one person has ever rung David or myself or asked the key questions are we okay living this contamination or financial coping. **The human cost is being forgotten.**

Commitments were made in the last election to deal with compensation by both sides of Government. Senator Payne told a group of us behind closed doors at the Oakey Army Base money wasn't the problem. Senator Payne needed I think 60 or 90 days and the Senator would get back to us. That was June 2016 and we are still waiting for that visit. **Again I say no understanding the affect or impact on our lives this has been to us at Berwick Stud.**

The Australian Brahman and Charolais Society, The Australian Registered Cattle Breeders Association the peak body for registered cattle in Australia has lobbied this Government. Asking to move us out of contamination because of the effect on our industry and the financial impact we face. This also has fallen on deaf ears in our Government. As producers we must be on clean ground and have clean water for our animals and ourselves. This seems to be lost by all parties whether from lack of understanding or care.

**WE NEED ACTION NOW, TO DEAL WITH THE PEOPLE LIVING AND WORKING IN THIS MESS CREATED FOR US BY DEFENCE HERE AT OAKEY.** To deal and understand the financial effect so we are in charge of our lives again. We need to have the ability to move on, with no loss to our asset base or business.

**We are willing to speak to the Senate Committee in the hope for a better understanding on our issues we face.**

Kind Regards

Dianne Priddle and David Jefferis

