

## **Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade**

Contamination caused by firefighting foams at RAAF Base Williamtown –  
9 March 2016

### **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Department of Defence

**Topic:** Protocols put to Defence

**Question reference number:** 1

**Senator:** Gallacher

**Type of question:** asked on Wednesday, 9 March 2016, Hansard page 37

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 April 2016

#### **Question:**

**CHAIR:** This was very specifically in relation to Oakey, which has probably been an ongoing situation. When you really distil it down, there is probably one less element to the situation here, and that is that there is less loss of income and there is more loss of property. There was a distinct proposition put in evidence that there was a protocol put to Defence. Did you receive a protocol, and did you rule it out previously?

**Mr Lysewycz:** Yes, we did receive the protocol. We have discussed it with the lawyers who promoted it, and it has not been put into effect. As Mr Grzeskowiak mentioned, that is a matter for government.

**CHAIR:** What was the time frame of this protocol being discussed? When was it put to you and when was it decided not to progress with it?

**Mr Lysewycz:** I would have to go back and check the record on that.

#### **Answer:**

The timeframe for the protocol was May-June 2015. A decision “not to progress with it” has not been made. Discussions with Shine Lawyers are continuing.