

Jason Hewitt/Karen Peak

Hexham NSW 2322

9 December 2015

RE: SUBMISSION FOR INQUIRY INTO CONTAMINATION AT RAAF BASE
WILLIAMTOWN NSW.

To Whom it may concern,

I Jason Hewitt and Karen Peak are writing to you today voicing our concern about the WILLIAMTOWN RAAF BASE CONTAMINATION and the affects its having on us!

My partner is a third generation Commercial Fisherman that works in the Hunter River/Fullerton cove area NSW region 4 , on the 4th of September Jason Hewitt was notified from the PFA (Professional Fisherman's Association) by a text message that Fullerton Cove has a **1months** closure in place and that Jason was not aloud to **WORK** due to WILLIAMTOWN RAAF BASE CONTAMINATION until further notice. And now has a ban on fishing until JUNE 2016.

From that date forward there has been a significance LOSS and the restrictions that have been put in place and have definitely affected our Business, Health and Environment. It has been an extremely stressful situation trying to work out where the money is going to come from to pay the bills not only for our business but for everyday living expenses, putting food on the table etc!

There is a lot of questions that Jason and I would liked answered, it is very unsettling not knowing if we will (Jason ,Ruby and I Karen) have any long term health affects consuming fish,crabs,prawns seafood etc ?

Considering we all have eaten seafood from a very early age, as a Mother and Father you try and do the very upmost best for your child/children! " EAT MORE FRESH FISH" it's good for you they say! Is eating the seafood from the Hunter River/ Fullerton Cove really any good for anyones health let alone our Four year old daughter that has eaten it ever since she could have solid foods?

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Is OUR daughter going to be able to have her own children? Does PFOS or PFOA affect your body? If so for how long?

Will there be an affect on our immune systems??

Will there be any Liver,Kidney,Cancer affects??

And does PFOS and PFOA last in your body for 7-10 years or longer?

Has it affected me trying to conceive another child ?

Im sure there is lots more questions that could be asked and answered!

The NOT sleeping is definitely having an affect on all of us, the pressure of the unknown is having a huge affect on all of us!

FINANCIAL ISSUES:

The next issue we have is the Financial side of things, at NO FAULT of our own but WILLIAMTOWN RAAF BASE AND THE CONTAMINATION!

The financial well-being of our business is extremely important to us for this to happen was very unexpected especially at this time of year.

For a Commercial Fisherman this is coming up to the busiest time of the year when majority of people eat our product and the quality of our seafood is at its highest.

NOTE: And **90%** of our catch does come from Fullerton Cove!!!!!!

Current liabilities is our mortgage , car loans, general house hold bills and business etc

It is putting a lot of pressure on both of us. More so for Jason as he provides for my Daughter and myself not knowing where the next pay cheque is going to come from is very hard for him stress and anxiety, not sleeping at night because of the un-known.

I have been extremely fortunate enough to be a stay at home Mother of our 4 year old daughter BUT NOW things have changed because off the it. And where is there support for us? From them RAAF WILLIAMTOWN?

Raising a Child/Children on an average can cost up and above of \$300,000.00 for a child until the age of 18years. Our daughter is missing out on a lot of things, swimming lessons, daycare and so forth because we simply cannot afford it now.

Jason wants to be a full time fisherman as he already was and take after his father and work as a fisherman up until he is due to retire! The question is now, is that going to happen? I wouldn't like to see all my Partners hard work and US together as a family lose everything we have because of this!! Is his business now worth ZERO now that he is unable to work in the Hunter River/Fullerton Cove area?

The cost to travel elsewhere and try and make a living is not worth it by the time you take the costs out AND not only that you have and will be stepping on other fisherman's fishing grounds that they also work hard at so that puts pressure on all fishermen! The brand of the Hunter River/Fullerton Cove Seafood industry has defiantly been affected not only we cannot catch the products but no one would want to buy our product now because of what the CONTAMINATION has done to us!

The Williamstown RAAF base really do have a lot to answer for and I'm sure that they wouldn't like to lose out just like we have and are suffering at the moment.

Thankyou for taking the time to read about our concerns and would like to see a positive out come for all affected.

Jason Hewitt & Karen Peak