

Phillip Goodwin

FERN BAY NSW 2295

11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

To whom it may concern,

My name is Phillip J Goodwin and I am a commercial fisherman of Region 4 Hunter River and the following is my submission to the effects that I have endured, personally and as a small business, due to the firefighting chemical contamination at Williamtown RAAF Base.

I am in financial hardship.

I have been left financially ruined at no fault of my own. I have a wife and four young children. Every day we are trying to work out where the money is going to come from to pay our mortgage, business loans, everyday living expenses and the purchasing of food. I earn 100% of my income from this area and I am quickly financially going backwards. I have nothing else to fall back on.

Since the closure I am feeling very frustrated, anxious, stressed and exhausted.

I am very angry and I have been told that I am only eligible for one of the assistant packages that have been offered to commercial fisherman. These packages are not sufficient and I honestly don't understand how the packages are going to keep commercial fisherman from losing their homes, businesses and everything they have worked hard for.

I am very disappointed in the Department of Defence and Williamtown RAAF Base and the way this disaster has been handled. There is a lack of communication and a lack of assistance to commercial fisherman.

A few questions that come to mind:

- Why is there a closure on fishing and prawning when no one knows what the damages are from the firefighting foams? (Human and Environment)
- What are these chemicals going to do to my young children?
- What is Williamtown RAAF doing to control the contamination?
- What is the Department of Defence doing to help fishers who may lose their home and business? As the assistant packages that are on offer are not adequate.
- Will compensation be made to myself and effected commercial fisherman?
- Will Hunter River – Region 4 be completely closed to commercial fishing?

- What can you do to help me?
- When will these questions be answered?

I attended a meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and I agreed with the effected fisherman that if a fisher representative is required as a witness to the injury, that it would be Chantel Walker.

Yours sincerely

Phillip Goodwin

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