



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Joint Standing Committee on Public Works report:

1/2017: Referrals made October/November 2016

August 2017

Recommendation 1

2.44 The Committee recommends that the Department of Defence continue to refine its community consultation process on the issue of per and poly-fluoroalkyl substance contamination at RAAF Base Williamtown and other locations where contamination could impact the local community.

Government response

Agree

The Department of Defence is refining, and will continue to refine, community consultation activities relating to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) contamination.

Since the initial community engagements, based on community feedback and reflections on lessons learnt, Defence has modified the delivery method to incorporate both presentations as well as one-on-one discussions with subject matter experts. This, as well as greater involvement from relevant state and federal agencies including the Commonwealth Department of Health and State and Territory Environmental Protection Authorities, has enabled community members to speak directly to experts in various fields resulting in a greater number of queries being answered at the consultations.

Defence will continue to work with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's PFAS Taskforce to establish consistent engagement approaches in line with a whole-of-Government response to PFAS Contamination.