

Key community messages from meeting of 4 February 2016 (reissued 16.2.16)

- The Williamtown Contamination Investigation CRG met on 4 February 2016.
- The Expert Panel conducted a site inspection of the RAAF base on 4 February 2016 followed by an Expert Panel meeting. Professor Mary O’Kane AC, NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer, and Dr William Glamore (University of New South Wales) also met with Fishers’ representatives and attended the ERG and CRG meetings to speak directly with community.
- The Expert Panel and Department of Defence have agreed to meet face to face on 17 February 2016 to discuss sampling, modelling and remediation issues.
- Defence continues to undertake its sampling and quality program and provides information as testing is completed and data comes to hand. As at 29 January 2016, there have been 378 samples collected with 34 detections.
- The conceptual model of the drainage process prepared by the Expert Panel Water Working Group suggests that Fullerton Cove drains are groundwater receiving or gaining drains.
- Following concerns raised around drainage at the previous CRG meeting, EPA has collected additional samples and submitted the results to the Expert Panel Water Working Group.
- The Expert Panel’s Water Working Group will consider issues around the Development Application for a Sand Mine in the Williamtown area.
- An outreach mental health clinic is now available every Thursday morning from the Fern Bay Medical Centre. Appointments can be made by calling 0417 494 576 between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday. After hours, the Hunter New England Health Mental Health contact centre is available 24/7 on 1800 011 511.
- NSW Health is hosting an information session with general practitioners in the area to provide information on PFOS/PFOA and discuss mental health issues and referral pathway.
- The CRG welcomed a new member: Ms Alison Kenny, Salt Ash Public School P&C Association. Ms Kenny contributed by tabling several important issues including: the processes around Defence supply of bottled water and opportunities for tankered water as opposed to bottled water.
- Health has advised that there is a quality assurance process in place that Water Tankers must meet. Hunter Water monitors the quality of water supplied to water tankers from its network.
- The next meeting of the Williamtown Contamination Investigation CRG will be held on Thursday 18 February 2016.
- The EPA information portal continues to provide the latest updates and developments on the government response and CRG activities, including meeting summaries, links to frequently asked questions and other key links to assist the community.

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/mediainformation/community-reference-williamtown.htm>

- Further information on current EPA and NSW Government activities in Williamtown can be found at: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/MediaInformation/williamtown.htm>
- The CRG has undertaken a number of steps to ensure transparency of meetings and other concerns raised, in addition to the above portals order to keep the community informed. These include:
 - Holding a number of community drop-in events prior to the Christmas period, three of which were held at Salt Ash Public School. These events included distribution of flyers highlighting how people could access information and express their concerns
 - Community members and agencies actively participating in the social media space, providing advice of the current status of concerns/issues raised, which includes both Twitter and Facebook
 - Appointment of an EPA Senior Stakeholder and Communications Officer, Mr Jeremy Hillman, currently working on the ground and door knocking residents within the investigation zone. Mr Hillman can be contacted on 0447 109128 or by email at Jeremy.hillman@epa.nsw.gov.au
 - Updating the communication engagement strategy for 2016, for example: future community drop-in events and Q&A forums.
 - The CRG webpage lists endorsed CRG membership but it is noted that contact details are not listed other than the direct information line: info@environment.nsw.gov.au. We have sought endorsement from the community CRG members for their contact details to be listed on the website, which will be expedited as soon as possible.