

WILLIAMTOWN COMMUNITY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2019

The Department of Premier and Cabinet as the Chair of the Williamtown Community Reference Group (CRG) provide this newsletter as a broad update of the meeting held on the 17th of January 2019 and other updates from Agencies involved in the CRG.

Payment of Hunter Water Service Fee and Usage Charges

To facilitate payment of town water bills, Defence has asked residents to return a Payment Authorisation Form, which authorises Hunter Water to release details of their bills to Defence. Property owners are requested to return a completed Payment Authorisation Form to the below postal or email address:

RAAF Base Williamtown, Stage 2 Environmental Investigation Project,
williamtown.defence@aecom.com OR
C/ AECOM
Australia Pty Ltd, PO BOX 1307, Fortitude Valley QLD 4006.

Without this paperwork, Defence will be unable to pay water bills for your property.

To request a copy of the Form, please call the Williamtown Information Line during business hours on 1800 011 443 (freecall) or email williamtown.defence@aecom.com.

Remediation and management works

Defence is continuing to remediate PFAS source areas at RAAF Base Williamtown. The aim of these remediation works is to remove PFAS from the environment and reduce the potential for PFAS to migrate off-site.

Early results of sampling of the groundwater under the former fire training area shows PFAS levels have reduced. This is to be expected given the works in the area. It is too early to assess how the works have affected off-base contamination. Defence's environmental consultant will be carrying out sampling of the broader area under the Ongoing Monitoring Plan later in the year. Over the next few years these results will be used to evaluate the impact of the remediation projects at Williamtown and recommend any improvements or further necessary works.

As at 6 February 2019, approximately 1608 million litres of water had been treated by water treatment plants across RAAF Base Williamtown

Water conservation during drought

NSW is currently experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record. Water is a precious community resource, especially so during times of drought and extreme heat. With this in mind, DPC asks that community members continue to consider and prioritise the preservation of water.

Precautionary Advice to minimise exposure to PFAS

A reminder that the NSW Government is recommending that residents within the Williamstown Management Area follow precautionary advice to minimise their exposure to PFAS chemicals originating from the RAAF Base Williamstown. If you are unsure of what advice applies to your property, please contact the NSW EPA on 131 555.

Primary Management Zone

The NSW Government is recommending that residents within the Primary Management Zone follow this precautionary advice to minimise their exposure to PFAS chemicals originating from the RAAF Base Williamstown:

- Groundwater, bore water and surface water should NOT be used for ANY PURPOSE
- Additionally, do NOT do anything with groundwater, bore water or surface water (including in creeks and drains) that might lead to incidental ingestion (swallowing)
- Home grown foods produced in your area should NOT be consumed. This includes home-slaughtered meat, poultry, eggs, milk, fruit and vegetables.

Secondary and Broader Management Zones

The NSW Government is recommending that residents within the Secondary and Broader Management Zones follow this precautionary advice to minimise their exposure to PFAS chemicals originating from the RAAF Base Williamstown:

- Do NOT use groundwater, bore water or surface water for drinking or cooking
- AVOID swallowing groundwater or surface water when bathing, showering, swimming and paddling (including in creeks and drains). Groundwater and surface water should NOT be used for swimming or paddling pools
- AVOID eating home grown food produced in your area – including home-slaughtered meat, eggs, milk, poultry, fruit and vegetables