

WILLIAMTOWN COMMUNITY UPDATE

DECEMBER 2018

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 15th of November 2018 and other updates from Agencies involved in the CRG. We encourage people to seek further information on the websites included in this update.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Sharon Nelmes in her role as Community Liaison Officer is available to talk to community members about services and referral pathways to support good mental health. Sharon can be contacted on 0436 655 285 or sharon.nelmes@humanservices.gov.au

NSW DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

- Business Connect is a dedicated and personalised NSW Government program that provides trusted advice to help you start or grow your small business.
- Advisors are experienced, have strong local connections and provide professional, high quality, independent advice. The first four hours of one-to-one business advice are free and provided locally. To book an advisory session visit industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect or call 1300 134 359

PFAS HEALTH STUDY – AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

- The PFAS systemic review and focus group findings were outlined at a community information session on 26th and 27th November. A report has been prepared and will shortly be published on our website (Nceph.anu.edu.au/pfas-health-study).
- This information collected has been used to develop questions for the cross-sectional survey. Survey available online or hard copy (with a pre-paid return envelope included)
 - Opens early 2019
 - Closes mid 2019
- The survey will be linked with PFAS blood serum results. If you have already participated in the Voluntary Blood Testing Program (VBTP) you will be posted a hardcopy questionnaire & a link to the online version, should you wish to complete it online. PFAS voluntary blood testing program is available until 30 April 2019
- Contacting the ANU Research Team: PFAS Health Study Coordinator
 - E: Katherine.Todd@anu.edu.au
 - T: (02) 6125 9497

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

- **Removal of soil from primary source area:** The former Fire Training Area on RAAF Base Williamtown has been identified as a key PFAS source area. On 31 October 2018, approximately 5000 cubic metres of PFAS contaminated soil was excavated from this area, with backfilling completed on 7 November 2018 and the restating of vegetation commencing. The excavated soil will be contained in a specially designed stockpile in another location on the Base until it can be treated on site or transported to a licensed facility off site.
- **Detailed Environmental Investigation and PFAS Management Action Plan (PMAP):** Defence has completed the detailed environmental investigation to better understand the nature and extent of PFAS on, and in the vicinity of RAAF Base Williamtown. All findings of the investigation, including detailed reports and factsheets are available for download from the RAAF Base Williamtown PFAS Investigation website at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Williamtown/publications.asp> The outcomes from the investigation are being used to develop a PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) for the Williamtown Management Area. The PMAP will outline activities that Defence will undertake to manage and reduce the risks of PFAS exposure for the Williamtown and surrounding community. Further information can be found at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Williamtown/FactSheets/201810WilliamtownPMAPFactsheet.pdf>

- **Salt Ash Air Weapons Range:** Defence has completed a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) on the Salt Ash Air Weapons Range. The PSI involved a review of potential historical use, storage and disposal of legacy firefighting foam at the Range and included sampling of groundwater, surface water, soil and sediment. Sampling was primarily undertaken on the Range, with limited sampling undertaken in the surrounding area. PFAS was not widespread and only found in low concentrations, with no detections of PFAS in surface water or soil samples or groundwater monitoring wells installed at, or close to, the Range boundary. No exposure risks were identified. Based on the findings of the PSI, no further environmental investigations are required. The PSI Report and factsheet can be found under the 'Preliminary Site Investigations' tab at: <http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/InvestigationAndManagementSites.asp>
- **Water Bills at Salt Ash Public School:** Recent local media reporting in relation to water bills at Salt Ash Public School contained incorrect information and this may have caused concern in the local community. Defence's primary goal is to ensure that all residents within the Management Area have access to a sustainable source of drinking water. As a result, the connection of Salt Ash Public School to town water was funded by the Federal Government. Ongoing costs related to the town water connection were always to be funded by the NSW State Government. Defence had been in contact with the school and representatives from the Department of Education regarding the process and outcome of the school's utility funding.