

Submission regarding pollution at Williamtown RAAF Base

My husband and I (Neville and Deborah Sketchley) have lived in the now infamous "RED ZONE" at Salt Ash for the past 44 years.

We came here to try to be somewhat self-sufficient and to create a place of tranquillity and enjoyment.

Since September 2015 our world has been turned upside down and our physical and mental health has been suffering due to the overwhelming realisation of our land and water being contaminated by toxic substances leaching from Williamtown RAAF Base.

Why has the RAAF Williamtown taken so long to let the community know about this?

Why has it taken years for our local council to inform the community?

Our land cannot be remediated. Our house and land have forever been marked as TOXIC. Our vegetables, eggs and fruit from our trees are inedible.

The health of our daughter and grandson and our health may have been damaged due to this Toxic Substance which is bio-accumulative and a persistent organic pollutant and has probably been leaching out for years.

Why has the Australian Government not ratified the listing of these Toxic Substances on the Stockholm Convention?

These substances are killing our planet, the ecosystem and all of us.

Our concerns are first and foremost :-

- The health of our children and ourselves.
- The loss of our environment.
- The trauma involved in obtaining compensation for our health and our property.
- The upheaval of our future of relocation to another area. (What? Where? And When?)

- The time factor involved to bring about a conclusion to this *Limbo Life*, a life which is moving at a frustratingly slow pace due to the unwillingness of the parties concerned to accept responsibility for this Toxic Event.

We hope for some favourable answers soon as our age is against us and we do not wish to expire before this matter is resolved.

Neville and Deborah Sketchley

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