

6 December, 2015

**RE: CONTAMINATION OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE FACILITIES
AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH, state and territories sites Australia
RE: WILLIAMTOWN BASE**

We are a retired couple on an aged pension and we have lived at this address for nearly 24 years. This was our choice as it is partly rural but still close to all amenities and the beaches. We have fruit trees and grow some of our own vegetables.

The RAAF has always be a welcome member of this community and considers themselves to be a good neighbour but good neighbours do not do what the Defence department has done to us.

We first heard about this contamination from a radio announcement when were where driving to a doctor's appointment, not really understanding the scope of this contamination at that time. It wasn't till later we realised what this meant for us personally and for the community at large.

A bore water sample was taken on the 21 October 2015 and we received the report 9 November 2015. The results were PFOS 30.9 ug/L and PFOA 0.65 ug/L putting us in a high range. We were visited by the Air Vice Marshall Greg Evans and he assured us that because the Defence caused this problem that the Defence would fix this problem and needed our consent for further testing which to this date hasn't happened. He was perplexed about why we had such a high reading (not wanting to blame this on their contamination problem) wanting to know if we had had a fire and the Fire Fighting Foam was used or had we buried animals using lime. They also told us we could eat our produce as long as we washed it properly before consumption but we believe these contaminates would be in the vegetables and fruit from our watering and we are sure you can't remove these by washing.

With this contamination it makes it virtually impossible for us to sell if we so desired as Real Estate agents won't list any of our properties and we see this as a long term problem, as the council has said they will be putting this on our 149 certificates. Long term this will mean we will be leaving our family with this problem and a property that will be worthless.

Why weren't the communities involved told of this problem sooner, considering the Defence new back in 2012 (if not sooner) that they had a problem with the Fire Fighting Foam and why are they still allowed to go ahead with their \$1 billion extensions. This money should be used to compensate all of us in the red zone as we have all been affected by loss of income or property devaluation.

Last year a new pumping station was put in behind us near the Newcastle Airport and while this was being constructed a large hose with a pump was erected over a sandy hill and water was pumped into this area for months, this pumping station is one listed as being contaminated.

We feel we are in a bad enough situation at our stage in life as this is a problem that we haven't created and we find it very worrying, but as this is a community problem we are all hurting. The

response has been so slow from all relevant departments and we feel more could be done to help the fishing families and other people whose livelihoods have been threatened.

No one has come up with the answers to this contamination and it feels like very little is being done to get these answers. When we had the visit from the Vice Marshall one of his comments was he hoped this would all die down soon, but that is ok for the Defence to say when we are the ones that are dealing with the stress and worry about what the future holds for us.

We are not in a financial position to start again and any compensation (if we were to get any) would not be enough for us to be able to move to something similar and our family is not in a position to help us and we shouldn't have to even ask them too.

As a community we feel it is about time the Defence started acting as the good neighbour they keep saying they are, we need truthful answers to what is transpiring and proper solutions. Surely goodness if they have known for as long as we are told, they would have had time to do testing to know how this will affect our health long term. All we ask for is answers.

Yours sincerely

Marion Cox