

Subject: Submission to Senate Inquiry
Date: Sunday, 13 December 2015 10:00:11 AM

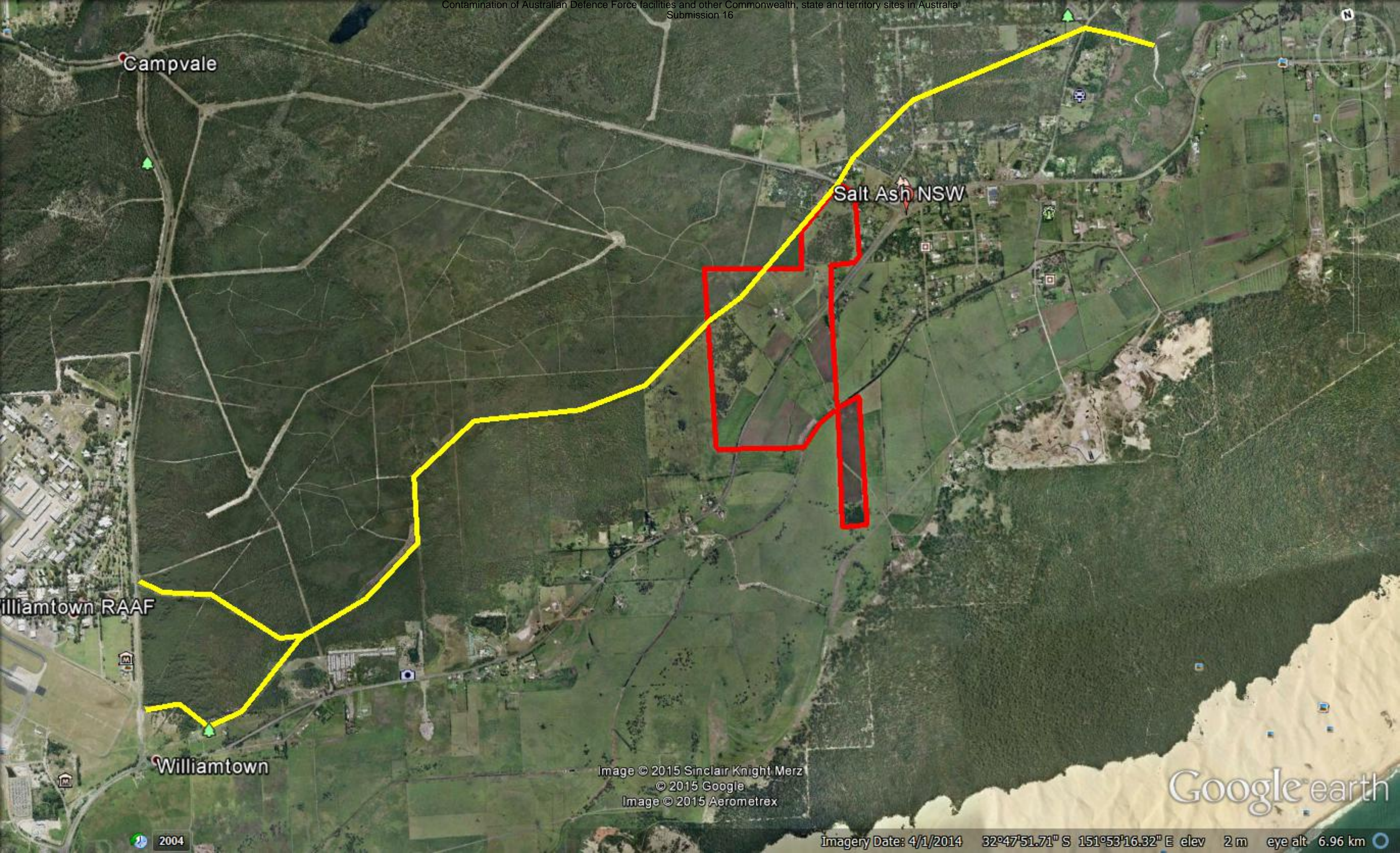
Subject : Affect of Contamination from Williamtown RAAF Base on our properties
Nelson Bay Road, Salt Ash.

1. Since 1990 one hundred and forty acres of our property has been constantly flooded by contaminated water from Williamtown RAAF Base overflowing low sections of the Moor's Drain levee bank. This floodwater takes months to drain away.
2. Is the contamination from the floodwater leaching into our soil.
3. Affects to human health – contamination in dust from soil, e.g. When ploughing, setting seed, using diamond harrows etc.
4. Surface water in paddock – safe drinking water for cattle, any danger to humans walking and working in the floodwater.
5. Testing for contamination in our soil and surface water, our bore water results are PFOS – 0.70µg/L and PFOA- <0.02µg/L, these bores are 7meters deep.
6. Raising low sections of the Moor's Drain levee bank by 80cm to stop flooding of properties in Sansom Road, Williamtown and Nelson Bay Road, Williamtown and Salt Ash with contaminated surface water.
7. Other areas affected by contamination e.g. Fullerton Cove and Tilligerry Creek are flushed twice a day by tidal waters. Floodwater on our property has no tidal flushing and lays on our paddocks taking 3 to 4 months to soak into the soil.
8. Williamtown RAAF Base uses 15 properties along Nelson Bay Road, Williamtown and Salt Ash and Sansom Road, Williamtown as a retention pond. The flood water is trapped by Moor's Drain levee bank on one side, Nelson Bay Road on the other side and the flood water is stopped by Richardson Road at the Eastern end.
9. We feel we are in limbo not knowing the extent and the effect, flooding and contamination will have on our property, our health and our farming business. To have a viable farming business we must be able to use 100% of our property, at present constant flooding over 50% of our farmland makes farming not viable. In April 2015 "NSW East Coast Storm" our property was flooded by water overflowing the Moor's Drain levee bank. The floodwater was still laying in our paddocks at the end of August. When the water dried up our grass was dead and alligator weed and smart grass grew back. Our cattle will not fatten on flood water and have to hand fed.

These are some of our concerns about Williamtown RAAF Base contamination spill will have on our properties and would appreciate if you could arrange soil and surface water tests on our property.

Attached is a image of our properties shown in red and the Moor's Drain in yellow coming from Williamtown RAAF Base.

Regards
The O'Connell Family



Campvale

Salt Ash NSW

Williamtown RAAF

Williamtown

Image © 2015 Sinclair Knight Merz
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Google earth

2004

Imagery Date: 4/1/2014 32°47'51.71" S 151°53'16.32" E elev 2 m eye alt 6.96 km