

# Endorsed Minutes 22 October 2015

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Williamtown Contamination Investigation Community Reference Group (CRG)</b>	<b>Date:</b> 15 October 2015
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Newcastle Airport Board Room</b>	<b>Time:</b> 4:00 to 6:12 pm
<b>Number:</b>	<b>1504</b>	
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Bill Tatnell   Snr Regional Coordinator   Department of Premier & Cabinet (DPC)	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Don Burgoyne   NSW Farmer's Association   Community Member & Oyster Farmer	
	Lyndsay Clout   President, Fullerton Cove Action Group & Williamtown Salt Ash Flood Group   Community Member	
	Robert Gauta   Manager, Commercial Fisherman's Coop   Community Member	
	Justin Hamilton   Fullerton Cove Action Group & Williamtown Salt Ash Flood Group   Community Member	
	Cain Gorfine   President, Williamtown and Surrounds Residents Action Group   Community Member	
	Rhianna Gorfine   Joint Spokesperson, Williamtown and Surrounds Residents Action Group   Community Member	
	Mike McIntosh   Group Manager Development Services   Port Stephens Council	
	Stacey Hannon   Estate and Infrastructure Group   Department of Defence	
	Marianne Mellor   Estate and Infrastructure Group   Department of Defence	
	James McLachlan   Estate and Infrastructure Group   Department of Defence	
	WC Peter Cluff   RAAF Williamtown   Department of Defence	
	Adam Gilligan   Manager Hunter Region   Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	
	Prof David Durrheim   Director Health Protection   Hunter New England Local Health District	
	Ian Lyall   Manager Aquaculture   Department of Primary Industries	
	Jodie Calvert   Assistant Regional Coordinator (Secretariat)   DPC	
	Aaron Spadaro   Regional Liaison Officer (Secretariat support)   DPC	
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cornelius Disselkoen   Maria's Vegetable Farm   Community Member	

Mark Salm | NSW Farmer's Association | Community Member & Oyster Farmer

Andrew Smith | CEO Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council | Community Member

Scot MacDonald | Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter

Number	Action Item	Responsible	Due Date
1504-1	Defence to work with EPA to develop a series of appropriate letters that describes the results in the proper context.  As well, Defence to ensure all results are shared with EPA.	Defence	22 Oct 2015
1504-2	Request that the Expert Panel meet in Newcastle prior to the CRG Thursday 29 October 2015	EPA	23 Oct 2015
1504-3	Two more drop-in events to be held 5 November and 19 November. Event 1: Williamtown Hall (DPC to arrange hall hire) Event 2: Salt Ash Public School  BBQ to be arranged.	EPA DPC Defence	5 Nov 2015 26 Oct 2015 5 Nov 2015
1504-4	Flyers for the support skills sessions to be forwarded to Community members to encourage community attendance.	DPC	23 Oct 2015
1504-5	Financial support/compensation to be included as agenda item at next meeting.	DPC	29 Oct 2015
1504-6	Communications regarding further monitoring to be forwarded to the CRG in order for the community members to be able to distribute asap.	Defence	27 Oct 2015
1504-7	Defence to provide a response at the next meeting on compensation issues.	Defence	29 Oct 2015
1504-8	Defence to consider a system for receiving claims from affected businesses during Community Drop-in Events	Defence	5 Nov 2015
1504-9	EPA to follow up on egg-sampling results for resident situated on Cabbage Tree Road	EPA	29 Oct 2015
1504-10	Health to include information about risks associated with mosquito bites into a fact sheet.	Health	29 Oct 2015

## Meeting minutes

Item / Issue	Response	Decision
2. Endorsement of Minutes	Endorsed	Noted
3. Actions List	<p>1502-4</p> <p>Defence advised that of the 22 results received, 17 results letters have been delivered to residents, currently waiting on finalised results on previous 5.</p> <p><i>Concerns raised by EPA:</i> EPA have not received any of the results. Letters giving individuals the results without any context.</p> <p>It was noted that despite a resident receiving a negative result, their property is still within the investigation area and precautionary measures should still be followed. EPA highlighted the need to provide clear messaging with test results stating the need to continue to follow government health advice on water, vegetable and animal product consumption</p> <p>EPA advised that there needs to be a much more coordinated and coherent approach to the distribution and provision of these results</p> <p>Community members agreed with the issue of contextualisation and that it is also critical that the result information is shared across the two levels of government.</p> <p>There were also concerns about the way the letters were being delivered. Defence noted the concern and the issue will be raised with the Defence team.</p>	<p>EPA and the Department of Defence agreed to develop a covering letter to accompany test results explaining the ongoing need for caution despite test outcomes. As well, Defence to ensure all results are shared with EPA.</p>
4. Environmental Protection Authority update	<p><u>Expert Panel:</u> Has now established several working groups – water working group (hydrological model to be developed).</p> <p>Human Health Risk Assessment Group (will inform defence of the comprehensive needs required to complete the human health risk assessment). As this is a major issue for the community, the scope will be provided to the CRG for feedback.</p> <p>It was noted that the Health Risk Assessment will take time and therefore, there is an expectation that ground water restrictions will remain in place for some time. It is difficult to provide a precise</p>	

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	<p>timeframe however, as the plan is finalised with Defence, each component should be given a timeframe, which can then be shared. A media release will be provided to the community about the Health Risk Assessment.</p> <p><i>Request by Chair</i> – for the Expert Panel to meet next Thursday 29 October, prior to the CRG meeting in Newcastle. This would be passed on to the Chair of the Expert Panel by EPA for consideration</p> <p>A question was raised as to whether chemicals other than PFOS/PFOA will be tested. EPA advised that this is listed in the response plan to be asked of Defence.</p> <p>Discussion still to occur regarding action item 1503-6 (dewatering and soil movement on development sites) – to be carried over to the next meeting.</p>	<p>EPA to submit a request for the next meeting of the Expert Panel to be held prior to the next CRG meeting on 29 October in Newcastle.</p>
Feedback on Community Drop-in Event	<p>Discussion held on how the community drop-in event was received by the community.</p> <p>Overall it was felt that the drop-in day was very well received by the community and that there was a need to provide further events across multiple sites as a way of keeping the general public informed.</p> <p><u>Gaps and suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion of financial advice</li> <li>• Show people how to access the website and other information via the internet (screen or possibly someone with a laptop to give a demonstration)</li> <li>• Extend the day to 7pm so that people can come after work.</li> </ul> <p>Health advised of two meetings being facilitated –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workplace Support Skills on Wednesday 28 October, and</li> <li>• Community Support Skills on Thursday 29 October.</li> </ul> <p>Due to the distress being experienced in the community, a request was made to include “financial support/compensation” as an agenda item for the next meeting.</p> <p>Advice received that recreational fishers were still</p>	<p>Two more drop-in events to be held 5 November and 19 November. Event 1: Williamtown Hall Event 2: Salt Ash Public School EPA will take lead in promoting the event. Defence to arrange and pay for the BBQ. 19 November – Salt Ash Public School A financial support / information person to be included on the day.</p> <p>Flyers for the support skills sessions to be forwarded to Community members to encourage community attendance</p> <p>Financial support/compensation to be included as agenda item at next meeting.</p> <p>DPI to address issue with media, advice on</p>

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	fishing in the drains around Salt Ash despite the Fishing Closure	maps and Compliance work
	The support of industry representatives at the drop- in afternoon was noted and appreciated	
Defence update	Defence advised that they are keen to understand the human health impacts and are currently working with EPA on this priority.	
	Priority is getting safe drinking water to residents.	
	Sampling plan for Stage 2B of the Environmental Investigation given to EPA – will cover a minimum of 800 samples – seeking feedback.	Communications regarding further monitoring to be forwarded to the CRG in order for the community members to be able to distribute asap.
	Ready to start with additional sampling next week – 26 October. Will include surface, groundwater, sediment, soil and biota sampling.	
	Q: Are these pre-identified sites or can the sites be suggested by community? How can community get sites tested? A: The community to contact Defence who will prioritise if it relates to drinking water however, cannot confirm other sites suggested by community will be tested.	
	A request was made of Defence to draft a fact sheet that can be put on the community website page and distributed to the community about the further sampling.	
	Fishing Industry Financial Supports: Defence consulting with Federal Government Departments to provide financial supports on this – ongoing.	Defence to provide a response on compensation issues raised, at the next meeting.
	A number of issues were raised with Defence on the length of time it is taking to receive some advice on short term financial support and or compensation.	
	Don Burgoyne raised the issue of short and long term costs that have been incurred by residents. Eg. refilling water tank only because of this issue and at the end it was not needed. These types of costs should be refundable in some way. A suggestion was made that Defence have a form at the community day wherein the community can legitimate their losses and where financial support can be provided.	Defence to consider a system for receiving claims from effected businesses.

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	<p>DPI conveyed their disappointment on the lack of response from Defence on the compensation issue – constantly coming to table with no advice on what can be provided for fishers and the community. This is totally unacceptable and a timeline is required as to when Defence is going to sit down and talk about this issue.</p> <p>The Fishers want something from Defence that displays their good faith to address this issue. The lack of response has been unacceptable.</p> <p>DPI provided background paper identifying areas where Fishers/oyster farmers may be impacted that may assist Defence in their deliberations.</p> <p>Defence noted the concerns, which would be conveyed to the Defence team for response.</p>	
Fisheries	<p>NSW DPI Fisheries Officers received a report of a fish kill in drains at Salt Ash. Fisheries Officers and EPA visited the site and met with a concerned resident. The fish appeared to have been dumped onsite and were not result of a fish kill.</p> <p>Feedback on meeting with Commercial Fishers held 21 October 2015. In attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Resilience Support Program</li> <li>• Rural Financial Counsellors</li> <li>• Salvation Army</li> <li>• Red Cross</li> <li>• Centrelink</li> <li>• Sarah Green RAMHP</li> <li>• DPI Fisheries</li> </ul> <p>Four key issues needing advice /resolution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Testing results</li> <li>2. Timetable for sampling</li> <li>3. Duration of Fishing Closure</li> <li>4. Compensation</li> </ol> <p>In addition to support avenues listed, there are opportunities to support fishers with grants, to investigate training opportunities and host an event for fishers wives.</p> <p>A draft Hunter/Port Stephens Seafood Brand Damage Communications Plan has been developed, which will be industry driven. It is intended that the Plan will be tidied over the coming week, with input from Industry and PSC.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

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	DPI work with the Fishers was acknowledged by the CRG.	
Community concerns	<p>Visit from local resident who lives on Cabbage Tree Road, who provided egg samples 5 weeks ago – hasn't heard back yet.</p> <p>Request from Salt Ash P&amp;C to be on the CRG. The Chair advised that it is written into the Terms of Reference that the CRG can be reviewed with regard to gaps and will consider the request.</p> <p>Is there a risk of PFOA/PFOS being carried by mosquitoes? No, however it was acknowledged that this needs to be communicated to the community and it was agreed that this information could be included into a fact sheet by Health.</p> <p>Question was raised in related to a resident did their own testing and high detects of up to 8.2 has experienced ongoing health issues and was previously looking to sell their property but due to the contaminant situation, is now unable to do so. Overall, what does this person now do considering her situation?</p> <p>It was advised that in the first instance, individuals with ongoing health issues should always go to their GP for assistance and GPs were welcome to contact Population Health to discuss specific concerns.</p> <p>The issue related to the high detects and property value was taken on notice by Defence.</p>	<p>EPA to follow up on results</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Health to include information about risks associated with mosquito bites into a fact sheet.</p>
Future meetings	Next meeting to be held 29 October 2015 with future meetings held fortnightly.	

Meeting closed 6.12pm

Next meeting 4:00 to 6:00 pm Thursday 29 October at Newcastle Airport Boardroom.