

Preliminary Surface Water Investigation Results – Williamtown NSW

20 October 2015

Executive Summary

On 29 September 2015, NSW EPA collected surface water samples between the original Investigation Area and the closure areas at Fullerton Cove and Tilligerry Creek. This was done to provide a screening-level assessment of surface water in Tilligerry creek and the regional drain network.

The surface water samples were consistent with the results reported in the Stage 2 report undertaken by Defence, being highest near the base and decreasing at distance. However surface water samples collected by the EPA contained higher PFC concentrations than were reported for the corresponding locations in the Stage 2 report. This includes samples collected near the Tilligerry Creek fisheries closure area which contained PFOS concentrations $>0.1 \mu\text{g/L}$ despite being collected following recent rainfall events (which could dilute concentrations).

Surface water concentrations are likely to be highly variable over time as they are strongly influenced by rainfall events and varying levels of groundwater contributions.

Based on the elevated concentrations of PFOS detected in surface water samples, and the as-yet unexplained detection of PFOS in groundwater near Salt Ash, it was deemed appropriate to extend the water use advisory and investigation areas to their current extent until a clear picture is provided by the sampling program that underlies the Human Health Risk Assessment being conducted by Defence.

A summary of the Surface Water Sampling Data is provided in **Figure 3** over the page.

