

Agenda – Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

Tuesday 1 May 2018

5:15pm – 7:00pm

Venue: RAAF Base Tindal

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|-----------|---|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Acknowledgement of Country | | |
| | "I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on traditional lands and pay my respect to elders both past and present and future." | | |
| 2 | Apologies and membership | | |
| 3 | Confirmation of previous minutes – 6 February 2018 | | p 1-9 |
| 4 | Update on Action Items | 10 min | p 10-19 |
| 5 | Department of Defence | 10 min | Verbal |
| 6 | Department of Health | 10 min | p 20-23 |
| 7 | Power and Water Corporation | 20 min | Verbal |
| 8 | Department of Environment and Natural Resources | 20 min | Verbal |
| 9 | Information and messaging for community members | 10 min | Group Discussion |
| 10 | General Business | 10 min | Group Discussion |
| 11 | Next Meeting: 19 June 2018 | | |

Meeting close

Minutes – Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

Tuesday 6 February 2018

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Venue: Katherine Government Centre, Level 1 Conference Room

Attendees:	Errol Lawson	Community
	Anthony Bartlett	Community
	Kevin Grey	Community
	Merlyn Smith	Community
	Meg Geritz	Community
	Allan Domaschenz	Community
Proxy for Petrena Ariston	Trent Machin	Community
	Sue Jones	Community
Proxy for Rob Jennings	Claire Johannsson	KTC
	Chris Horton	PWC
	Andrew Tatnell	RAAF/DoD
	Xavier Schobben	DoH
	Andrew Cowan	DCM
	Karen Vohland	DCM
	Sara Trenerry	DCM
	Jake Quinlivan – Chair	
	Nathanael Knapp – Secretariat	
	Kylie Sinclair	DCM
	Jessica Powter	DTBI

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Apologies:

Petrena Ariston	Community
Natalie Ellis	Community
Lisa Mumbin	Community
Fay Miller	KTC
Robert Jennings	KTC
Matthew Clarke	DoD

Absent or no response:

May Rosas	Community
Warren De With	Community
Craig Stevens	Community

1 **Acknowledgement of Country** Chairperson

2 **Apologies and membership** Chairperson

2.1 Action: Craig Stevens – membership revoked due to absence from 3 consecutive meetings as per Terms of Reference. Nominations for vacant position to be discussed by members at the next meeting.

Responsibility: KPCCG Members

3 **Confirmation of previous minutes** All

Moved: MG

Seconded: EL

4 **Update on Action Items** All

Refer to Action Register

4.1 Action: Request a timeframe for availability of information from NT PFASIASC in regards to the NTG response to site remediation e.g. former fire station, training facilities and access to the list of 67 sites identified by the NTEPA

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Responsibility: NTPFASIASC/Secretariat

4.2 Action: Arrange a deputation from NTEPA to a future meeting of the KPCCG to explain the role of the NTEPA

Responsibility: NTPFASIASC/Secretariat

5 Department of Defence (DoD)

Members discussed the rainwater tank installation program and were advised that the next shop front and open forum community engagement sessions were planned to be held in March 2018. The Human Health Risk Assessment report continues to progress and is on track for completion in April 2018. It is anticipated that further clarity around site remediation activities at Tindal and expected timeframes for commencement and completion will be provided at the next shop front and open forum.

5.1 Action: DoD to provide follow up information and/or advice on the commitment to install filtration systems on rain water tanks supplied to affected residents.

Responsibility: DoD

6 Department of Health

Refer to Agenda Item 6 Report.

Further information - A special report is being compiled by DoH regarding cancer rates in Katherine and is expected to be available in April 2018.

7 Power and Water Corporation

Members were provided an update on the following:

PFAS has not been detected in the town water supply since mid-2017. Water conservation measures remain in place. PWC are currently working to develop further information and fact sheets.

Members discussed point of use water testing at residential properties connected to the reticulated town water supply to provide further confidence to the community.

Members discussed water allocations from the Katherine River to PWC and were advised that allocations are reviewed and revised annually.

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7.1 Action: Follow up with DoD and PWC regarding residential point of use testing to give confidence to the community that nil detect water testing results recorded at the water treatment plant are comparative to results recorded at residential/household taps.

Responsibility: KPCCG Chair

7.2 Action: Provide information on the reason behind reports of 'dirty water' flowing from household taps in Katherine South.

Responsibility: PWC

8 NT PFAS Inter-Agency Steering Committee Chair

Members were provided with an overview of the NT PFAS Inter-Agency Steering Committee governance structure and its connection with the National PFAS Task Force. Members were informed of the work being undertaken to finalise the Inter-Governmental Agreement to be progressed through COAG and the development of a PFAS management strategy for managing PFAS sites across the NT.

Members discussed their concerns regarding property valuations, potential losses and recent reports of community members being denied home loans, allegedly due to the detection of PFAS. The National PFAS Task Force is currently meeting with the banking and real-estate sectors and more information will be provided by the NT PFAS IASC to KPCCG members when it is available.

Members discussed the potential impact on the coming tourist season and tourism more broadly. Communications need to reflect the current situation to mitigate negative outcomes and de-bunk myths.

8.1 Action: Provide formal advice to the KPCCG regarding National PFAS Task Force discussions around banks and lenders.

Responsibility: NTPFAS IASC/Secretariat

**Response provided (Attachment B)*

9 Additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent

9.1 Agenda Paper 3 – Working Group Meeting Summary

Refer to Agenda Paper 3

9.1 Action: Priority information, as detailed in agenda paper 3, endorsed by KPCCG for publication/inclusion in newspaper advertisement

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Responsibility: DoD/Secretariat

9.2 Agenda Paper 4 – Commentary on information material

Refer to Agenda Paper 4

9.2 Action: 'Commentary on DoD information material' as detailed in agenda paper 4, endorsed by KPCCG for inclusion/publication in newspaper advertisement.

Responsibility: DoD/Secretariat

9.3 Agenda Paper 5 – Member initiated list of questions and responses

Refer to Agenda Paper 5

Department of Defence response (Attachment C)

9.3 Action: Chair to follow up with MS regarding responses to questions.

Responsibility: KPCCG Chair

10 General Business

All

Members discussed other mapping and investigation work recently undertaken by the Northern Territory Government in regards to flood mitigation investigations.

10.1 Action: Request advice from NTPFAS IASC / DENR as to whether satellite scans, mapping and imaging collected during Katherine Flood Mitigation investigation has been offered to, or shared with Coffey's to assist with mapping water flows.

Responsibility: NTPFAS IASC

10.2 Agenda Paper 7 – Member request for discussion regarding

(a) Property Report Sheets and;

(b) KPCCG information dissemination

Members discussed property report sheets returned to residents without any identification or reference number. Member AD provided members with a copy of his property report sheet as an example. Members felt that these documents should have had an identification or reference number allocated to them.

10.2 Action: Request advice from DoD regarding document control and identification processes for property report sheets returned to residents.

Responsibility: DoD

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10.3 Coffey IHHRA Report

Members discussed the IHHRA and agreed that the following action items were of importance and required a clarification.

10.3 Action: Request a response to the following: In the Executive Summary of IHHRA, the Section – Conceptual Site Model lists two migration pathways namely Leaching to groundwater and Leaching and surface water run-off. In view of the several sinkholes in the Katherine area, and particularly within Tindal air base, has Coffey's considered a third migration path to the aquifer of surface run-off entering the sinkholes.

Responsibility: DoD / Coffey's

10.4 Action: Request a response to the following: The Draft Final report of the Pepper Fracking Inquiry includes information that the flow rates of the Tindal aquifer is 10m/year in the southern section and 1000m/year in the northern section. Could Coffey's confirm that they have taken advice from a hydro geologist in analysing the flow patterns between Tindal and the Katherine River.

Responsibility: DoD / Coffey's

10.5 Tindal Site Visit

Members discussed the possibility of arranging a site visit to Tindal prior to the next KPCCG meeting and agreed that this was a priority.

10.5 Action: Arrange a date for a site visit to Tindal.

Responsibility: KPCCG Chair / DoD

10.6 Tourism Strategy

Members discussed tourism and the potentially negative impact the PFAS issue may have on tourism numbers. KTC advised that a tourism marketing strategy is currently being developed in partnership with Tourism NT.

10.6 Action: KTC to provide details on the tourism marketing strategy for Katherine.

Responsibility: KTC

11 Next Meeting

Tuesday 20 March 2018, 5:30pm, Katherine Government Centre

Meeting closed at 7:15pm

PFAS Taskforce met with the following organisations:

- Australian Banking Association
- Customer Owned Banking Association
- Australia and New Zealand Bank Group (ANZ)
- Commonwealth Bank (CBA)
- Westpac
- National Australia Bank (NAB)
- Australian Property Institute
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

The Taskforce provided each organisation with the following Documents:

- Australian Government action in managing PFAS contamination (one page summary)
- FSANZ Report FAQs
- Health Based Guidance Values (HBGV) factsheet
- PFAS – Health effects and exposure pathways factsheet
- Summary of the Consolidated Report – Perfluorinated Chemicals in Food
- Summary of the Dietary Exposure Assessment
- Summary of the Hazard Assessment Report – PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS

Key points for discussion

- Community concerns about ‘falling’ property values and lending practices of banks.
- Discussed how to restore confidence in the local markets.
- Updated them on the work of the Taskforce and the development of both the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on National Framework for PFAS and the National Environment Management Plan for PFAS (NEMP).

Key Outcomes

- There was no blanket policy on lending in PFAS affected areas – assessment was on a case-by-case basis, however, the independent valuation reports are a key driver of risk assessment.
- Valuers have a key role to play in the whole process as they are required to reflect local market sentiment in their valuations – as well as the factual information on contamination effects.
- The Taskforce has previously provided information to API and will continue to provide information that will help valuers in their role – notwithstanding their independent role.
- All advised that there was the need for ‘reliable information’ to be available to bankers and valuers – welcomed the idea of a Government based website that valuers and banks could use.



Reference: A4002178

- ***How often was 3M light water used for training purposes at Tindal RAAF Base?***

RAAF Base Tindal commenced operations as a main operating base from October 1988 and likely commenced Airfield Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) operations from that time. Delivery of ARFF services is required under international conventions and requires a number of capabilities to be delivered to be considered appropriate. Training with Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) was a routine activity that would have occurred twice monthly from 1988 until the Mid-1990s when it ceased completely.

- ***When did Ansulite replace 3M Lightwater?***

The 3M Company ceased production of Light Water AFFF in 2002-03, at that time no suitable alternative was available¹. By 2004 Ansulite was being trailed by Defence as an alternative². From 2004, Defence transitioned to Ansulite for use across the Defence Estate in replacement of 3M Lightwater. Defence commissioned a study in 2006³ to understand the environmental effects of available products of the time. By 2007 Defence published guidelines for the safe use of AFFF⁴.

- ***When did RAAF Base Tindal cease using it for training i.e. restricted to just for emergencies, replacing training with an enviro friendly solution to replicate the Firefighting foam.***

Defence began phasing out the use of 3M Light Water AFFF from 2004 and by 2011 had fully transitioned to Ansulite⁵. Delivery of training foam did not occur until recently and commissioned into use in 2013-14 across Air Force. It is likely Air Force ceased using 3M Light Water AFFF from April 2004 for training⁶.

- ***Have other remote training sites within the Katherine Region been identified also that may require decontamination i.e. Delamere Weapons Training Range? In order to prevent further leaching of harming chemicals or are the tests specific to PFAS compound.***

Defence has been proactive in initiating an environmental program to identify the nature and extent of PFAS on and around Defence sites. After a review of historical legacy firefighting foam use across the Defence Estate, Defence has determined there is a low risk of significant PFAS contamination issues at Delamere Air Weapons Range or surrounding properties in the NT. As a result, a detailed environmental investigation into PFAS is not required at this time. Defence will continue to assess potential risks associated with PFAS contamination at Delamere Air Weapons Range (and other properties in the NT), including through routine water quality monitoring. Defence is committed to engaging with the relevant authorities and local communities with respect to PFAS investigation and will engage with the community if further investigations into PFAS at other NT sites are deemed to be required.

¹ Colville and McCarron, Environmental Issues Associated with Defence Use of Aqueous Film Forming Foams. CSIG May 2003. p.iv

² The Senate. Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Reference Committee. Inquiry into firefighting foam contamination Part A – RAAF Base Williamstown Feb 16, p. 8

³ Mallavarapu Et Al. Project Report: Environmental Fate of New Fire Suppressing Products (Ansulite AFFF & 3M RF) compared to Light Water: A verification of Manufacturer's claims. University of South Australia, 04 Apr 06.

⁴ Environmental Guidelines for Management of Fire Fighting Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) Products. Department of Defence, Defence Support Group. June 2007.

⁵ Senate Inquiry into the Contamination of Australia's Defence Force facilities and other Commonwealth, state and territory sites in Australia, Defence Submission Part A, 18 Dec 15. p.4

⁶ Senate Inquiry into the Contamination of Australia's Defence Force facilities and other Commonwealth, state and territory sites in Australia, Defence Submission Part A, 18 Dec 15. p.14

- ***What experience at conducting health studies/health surveys and long term exposure health consultations does Coffey Consultancy have?***

Defence conducted an open and competitive tender procurement to identify companies with relevant experience, skills and capability in conducting detailed environmental investigations that are focused on characterising sources of contamination and possible connections between potential contamination to humans, the human food chain or ecology.

Coffey were selected to conduct the RAAF Base Tindal PFAS investigation and subsequent analysis of the potential exposure risks of PFAS on the Katherine community, including the Human Health Risk Assessments (HHRA,) because of their experience and expertise.

The HHRA requires careful interpretation of primary literature on toxicology, environmental fate and ecotoxicology. The chemicals of interest include bio-accumulative chemicals that are not well characterised in the NEPM. It therefore requires a team that includes technical direction by appropriately qualified and experienced health risk assessors with expertise or access to expertise in human health toxicology and ecotoxicology.

The Coffey team has completed numerous risk assessments on the potential exposure of humans to a wide variety of unusual chemicals associated with contaminated soil, groundwater and air. The Coffey team have experience in assessing and managing environmental and health risks associated with contaminated sites and industrial facilities, chemical toxicity assessment, chemical fate and transport modelling (involving all media: soil, water and air), environmental and occupational risk assessment and management and regulatory compliance. Coffey staff are highly qualified and experienced in the provision of analysis on potential health risks associated with chemical contamination.

International peer review has also been incorporated into the team, leveraging the PFAS investigation experience of Coffey personnel in the USA. The Coffey team completing the HHRA also includes the Australian representative on the Coffey global PFAS working group. Defence is also working closely with the NT and Commonwealth Departments of Health to ensure the HHRA is robust.

- ***Are the water use surveys designed by Coffey or by University Departments of Health and Science?***

The water use survey has been designed by Defence and Coffey to collect information about water supply and use on properties in the vicinity of RAAF Base Tindal to inform the Human Health Risk Assessment. The Community Survey aims to collect a broader range of information about water and land use than the Water Use Survey. The Community Survey looks at additional topics including land use and edible produce.

Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

Update on Action Items – 1 May 2018

Date	Action	Responsibility	Status	Comments
6.2.18	4.1 Request a timeframe for availability of information from NT PFAS IASC in regards to the NTG response to site remediation e.g. former fire station, training facilities and access to the list of 67 sites identified by the NTEPA.	NTPFAS IASC/ Secretariat	Ongoing until information is provided	
6.2.18	Arrange a deputation from NTEPA to a future meeting of the KPCCG to explain the role of the NTEPA.	NTPFAS IASC/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>Executive Director Environment Protection, Dept. Environment and Natural Resources, to attend next meeting (1 May 2018)</i>
6.2.18	5.1 DoD to provide follow up information and/or advice on the commitment to install filtration systems on rain water tanks supplied to affected residents.	DoD		
6.2.18	7.1 Follow up on discussions with DoD and PWC regarding residential point of use testing to give confidence to the community that nil detect water testing results recorded at the water treatment plant are comparative to results recorded at residential/household taps.	KPCCG Chair	In progress	<i>Sampling to be undertaken at four properties (Berhardt st, Giles St, Martin Tce, Callistemon Dr) week of 12 March 2018. Test results to be provided when available.</i>
6.2.18	7.2			

	Provide information on the reason behind reports of 'dirty water' flowing from household taps in Katherine South.	PWC		
6.2.18	8.1 Provide formal advice to the KPCCG regarding National PFAS Task Force discussions around banks and lenders.	NTPFAS IASC/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>See Attachment B contained in Minutes of Meeting 4 from 6 February 2018 (p# 7</i>
6.2.18	9.1 Priority information, as detailed in agenda paper 3, endorsed by KPCCG for publication/inclusion in newspaper advertisement.	DoD/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>DoD to provide update on status and process for advertising</i>
6.2.18	9.2 'Rob Jennings commentary on DoD information material', as detailed in agenda paper 4, endorsed by KPCCG for inclusion/publication in newspaper advertisement.	DoD/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>Published in Katherine Times, Letters to the Editor, 14 February 2018 by an unknown source.</i>
6.2.18	9.3 Chair to follow up with MS regarding responses to questions.	KPCCG Chair		
6.2.18	10.1 Request advice from NTPFAS IASC / DENR as to whether satellite scans, mapping and imaging collected during Katherine Flood Mitigation investigation has been offered to, or shared with Coffeys to assist with mapping water flows.	NTPFAS IASC	Complete	<i>This information has not previously been provided to Coffeys. On 8 March 2018 DENR provided Defence with contact details for the Department of infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Katherine Office) to obtain this information.</i>
6.2.18	10.2			<i>The resident's address are used as the unique identifier for</i>

	Request advice from DoD regarding document control and identification processes for property report sheets returned to residents.	DoD		<p>correspondence sent to them, followed by date.</p> <p>Contractors assist DoD with the drafting of this correspondence and they do not have access to the Defence Records Management System (DRMS) that would normally generate a file reference number. Further filing is done in DRMS by Defence at a later date but DoD still refer to correspondence with a resident by their residential address.</p>
6.2.18	<p>10.3</p> <p>Request a response to the following - In the Executive Summary of IHHRA, the Section – Conceptual Site Model lists two migration pathways namely Leaching to groundwater and Leaching and surface water run-off. In view of the several sinkholes in the Katherine area, and particularly within Tindal air base, has Coffey's considered a third migration path to the aquifer of surface run-off entering the sinkholes.</p>	DoD/Coffey's	Complete	<p>The sinkholes represent a preferential pathway for surface water to infiltrate to groundwater. The overall process is the same, it is just faster via a sinkhole. The same occurs in reverse at the end of the wet season, where groundwater may discharge out of a sinkhole. Again the groundwater would discharge to the surface anyway through seeps, but the process occurs much faster through the sinkhole. The presence of sinkholes doesn't change the interpretation of the overall migration pathways or the exposure to receptors.</p>

6.2.18	10.4 Arrange a date for a site visit to Tindal.	KPCCG Chair/DoD	Complete	1 May 2018 KPCCG meeting to be held at RAAF Base Tindal, including tour.
6.2.18	10.5 The Draft Final report of the Pepper Fracking Inquiry includes information that the flow rates of the Tindal aquifer is 10m/year in the southern section and 1000m/year in the northern section. Could Coffey's confirm that they have taken advice from a hydro geologist in analysing the flow patterns between Tindal and the Katherine river.	DoD/Coffey's	Complete	<i>In preparing our hydrogeological conceptual model, we have referred to information available from NT government on the Tindall Aquifer. This information has been developed by DENR's hydrogeologists over many decades and many studies. The reports have been interpreted by our in-house hydrogeologists and in discussion with local NT groundwater specialists (including DENR and PWC hydrogeologists). Due to the Karstic formation, water velocities will vary greatly between cave systems and smaller fracture networks in massive rock. Flow rates will also vary between wet and dry seasons when the driving force changes. Further information is presented in the DSI report, which has now been published.</i>
6.2.18	10.6 KTC to provide details on tourism marketing strategy for Katherine for the coming dry season.	KTC		

5.12.17	6.2 Request a response relating to NT cancer rates being higher than the national average	DoH	Ongoing	See report for Agenda Item 6 from 6 February 2018. Special report is being compiled specifically for cancer rates in Katherine and is expected to be available in April 2018.
5.12.17	5.1 Request a response from NT PFASIASC in regards to the NTG response to site remediation e.g. former fire station, training facilities etc	Secretariat	Complete	See Agenda Paper 1 Item 4.1 – from 6 February 2018
5.12.17	5.2 Request list of 67 sites identified by NTEPA	NTPFASIASC/ Secretariat	Complete	See Agenda Paper 1 Item 4.1 – from 6 February 2018
5.12.17	5.3 Request deputation from Peter Vasel to explain the role of the NTEPA	NTPFASIASC/ Secretariat	Complete	See Agenda Paper 1 Item 4.1 – from 6 February 2018
5.12.17	5.4 Email link of Coffey presentation to members	Secretariat	Complete	http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Tindal/Presentations/171204CommunityWalkinSessionPresentationDSIAndHHRA.pdf Emailed to members 6 December 2017.
5.12.17	6.1 Request Department of Primary Industries and Resources fish test results taken from Daly River for release to the public.	DoH / NT PFASIASC	Complete	See Agenda Paper 2 Item 4.2 – from 6 February 2018

5.12.17	8.1 Members to meet Monday 11 December, 1100, DCM Office to identify key topics for messaging through social media and Katherine Times. Info to be provided to broader group. Invite to be sent to all KPCCG members.	Secretariat / DCM SCE	Complete	See Agenda Paper 3, Item 9.1 – from 6 February 2018
14.11.17	8.1 KG, MG and AD to draft a letter of support for residents directly affected by the detection of PFAS on their properties.	KPCCG members	In progress	
14.11.17	4.1 Amend terms of reference to reflect that membership will be revoked if absent without apology for three consecutive meetings.	Secretariat	Complete	
14.11.17	4.2 Offer vacant position to May Rosas as a representative of the Aboriginal community	DCM PFASIASC Chair	Complete	Offer accepted.
14.11.17	4.3 Follow up with Lisa Mumbin regarding appointment to KPCCG	KPCCG Chair	Complete	Offer accepted.
14.11.17	4.4 Provide information related to contamination and spread of disease from bats	DoH	Complete	See Agenda Paper Item 6 – from 5 December 2017
14.11.17	4.5 Seek information relating to concerns raised about current levels of PFAS in blood stored the blood bank.	MG/Australian Red Cross	Complete	Public policy available on Australian Red Cross website.

14.11.17	4.6 Action item 'Seek feedback on any additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent' to be moved to agenda as a standing item	Secretariat	Complete	Standing agenda item
14.11.17	7.1 Seek information regarding chlorination, fluorination and PFAS cocktail in reticulated water supply and whether there have been any studies undertaken to establish whether this is safe for human consumption	DoH	Complete	See Agenda Paper Item 6 from 5 December 2017
14.11.17	8.1.2 Follow up EASA regarding their capacity and capability to deal with PFAS related queries and requests for counselling	Secretariat	Complete	EASA services are available as per the usual panel contract arrangements. EASA operate a face to face service in Katherine on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and staff can call the head Office in Darwin and book an appointment. They can also book telephone or skype sessions if that suits better which will be serviced by clinicians from Darwin. Also if they visit Darwin they can book sessions at the head office in Stuart park
14.11.17	8.2 Request a response, in writing, from the PFASIASC Chair, to the following:	Secretariat	Complete	See response in Agenda from 5 December 2017

	<p>a) identify each and every PFASIASC member; and</p> <p>b) advise terms of agreement of each PFASIASC member.</p> <p>c) request a member of the PFASIASC to attend the KPCCG meeting to be scheduled for late January 2018.</p>			
14.11.17	<p>8.2.1</p> <p>Invite Senator Nigel Scullion to attend a future meeting of the KPCCG with the intention that :-</p> <p>(a) that HON NIGEL SCULLION (PERSONALLY) provide and present a detailed briefing relative to Senate Inquiry into PFAS</p> <p>(b) that HON NIGEL SCULLION (PERSONALLY) provide and present a briefing relative to the PFAS effect on Katherine Aboriginal Community</p>	Secretariat	Complete	Awaiting response
14.11.17	<p>9.1</p> <p>distribute member initiated Draft Katherine Region PFAS Information Management Plan to KPCCG members for consideration</p>	Secretariat	Complete	
17.10.17	<p>4.1</p> <p>All agreed that a visual representation of the governance structure, relationship between KPCCG, PFASISC, PFAS Task Force and politicians needed to be developed.</p>	DCM Strategic Communications and Engagement	Complete	
17.10.17	<p>4.2</p> <p>Recommendation to Chief Minister:</p> <p>All agreed that actions and information from KPCCG be disseminated to all politicians, independents and opposition.</p>	DCM DepCE	Complete	

		DCM Strategic Communications and Engagement		
17.10.17	<p>4.3 & 4.4</p> <p>Follow up with members who did not attend or respond to invitation to join KPCCG and enquire whether they wish to accept their offer of appointment or not.</p> <p>Discuss membership appointments at next meeting and seek recommendations for community representatives.</p>	DCM RED BRR	Complete	Correspondence and invites sent to all members. Seeking advice from KPCCG members.
17.10.17	<p>5.1</p> <p>School Principals are seeking talking points and clear messaging suitable for inclusion in newsletters, around potable water supply.</p>	DCM SCE in consultation with PWC and DoH	Complete	Updated messaging to be provided on an ongoing basis.
17.10.17	<p>6.1</p> <p>Members formally request that blood testing is made available as a priority to establish a baseline, particularly for those people living in a high risk area.</p>	PFASISC Chair	Complete	Blood testing available
17.10.17	<p>6.2</p> <p>Members request that further investigation be undertaken into causal effects.</p>	DoD, DoH	Complete	Expert PFAS panel established.
17.10.17	<p>4.5</p> <p>Establish mailing list for out of session information</p> <p>Chair discretion to call out of session meeting if required</p> <p>Add acknowledgement of country</p> <p>Amend Schedule 1, XS title from Dr to Mr</p>	DCM Secretariat	Complete	

Action Item Update

17.10.17	5.2 Address concerns regarding the safety of water by providing and making available accurate and detailed information.	DoD	Complete	Results provided direct to PWC, KTC and residents.
17.10.17	7.1 Request to provide dates for when testing was conducted. Provide monthly statistics for tap and bore tests Use micro grams per litre instead of ppm as a unit of measurement to keep data consistent	PWC	Complete	Test results available on PWC website
17.10.17	7.2 Seek feedback on any additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent	KPCCG members	Complete	Moved to standing agenda item
17.10.17	8.1 Request to provide details on KTC pool filtration system to members Request to provide weekly updates on pool testing will be made available to the public	Katherine Town Council	Complete	Filtration system is sand. Pool to open Thursday 16 November 2017. Testing results available on KTC website as they are received
17.10.17	9.1 Chair requested that feedback on first meeting be emailed through to secretariat Chair requested that members consider providing suggestions on subject matter experts for presentations and priorities to the KPCCG. KPCCG members that didn't attend or respond to invitation to be contacted to gauge their level of interest and participation in the group	KPCCG Chair & members	Complete	

NT Department of Health Report for Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

Meeting 5: 5:30pm – 1 May 2018 at Katherine Government Centre

Responsibility:

Xavier Schobben, A/Exec Director Public Health & Clinical Excellence;

Tracy Ward, A/Director Environmental Health NT Department of Health

Defence Interim Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) report

The Australian Department of Defence released the interim HHRA report on 5 January 2018. The NT Department of Health (NT Health) previously provided comments to Defence and its consultant, Coffey, on additional water bodies and biota species to be sampled and tested during the upcoming wet season for inclusion in the final human health risk assessment report expected to be released in late April 2018.

It is understood that Coffey has received approval to study further species of aquatic life from the Katherine River to better inform the final HHRA. It is anticipated that Defence/Coffey will provide a further update at the meeting on this matter.

NT Health has also advised the public to avoid the consumption of fish from the Katherine River till the full human health risk assessment is completed and released in late May 2018 and more definitive guidance can be provided on fish serving consumption after additional expert toxicological input has been received. Signs have been erected at various access points along the Katherine River and Tindal Creek advising of such.



Recent results of PFAS testing in barramundi samples taken from the Daly River by the Northern Territory Government have returned results below health based guidance values. The department requested that Food Standards Australia New Zealand provide a report on the results, which has been completed and has been placed on the NT EPA website

at: https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/473492/pfas_fish_report.pdf

Key Dates for Defence PFAS investigation for RAAF Base Tindal

- On 17 March 2018 The Australian Department of Health provide details on the Katherine Community Support Package for residents, including voluntary blood testing, counselling services and taking part in the PFAS Health Study.

See: -http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas.htm#expert_panel

- Defence Community Consultation undertaken – Katherine 27 & 28 March 2018.
 - Workshop between Defence and NTG agencies in first week of May to discuss HHRA report processes and any issues arising.
 - Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Report release – late May 2018
 - Ecological Risk Assessment Report release – TBC by Defence & Coffey
 - Supplementary Detailed Site Investigation release – June 2018
 - PFAS Management Action Plan (remediation options) release – June 2018.
- Tindal has been identified as a Priority 1 Site by Defence.

Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth)

Though the NT did not attend, as officers were responding to Tropical Cyclone Marcus, enHealth met at a workshop on 20-21 March 2018 in Melbourne to review public information on PFAS, to be aligned with statements made by Expert Panel when released within the next month.

enHealth also discussed national project proposal on human biomonitoring being led by Victoria. This is a tool for health-related environmental monitoring with which populations are examined for their exposure to pollutants from the environment. enHealth discussed a priority potential list of environmental chemicals including certain heavy metals, BPA in plastic, dioxins and PFAS as initial part of the project which will need to be considered by its parent committee, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, in due course.

Katherine cancer rates

The Department's Health Gains Planning Branch has been requested to prepare an updated report on a Katherine cancer study initially provided to the KPCCG in November 2017, to be available before June 2018.

Katherine Epidemiological Study (PFAS Health Study)

The Australian Government Department of Health has commissioned the Australian National University (ANU) to undertake the **PFAS Health Study**, which has five main parts:

1. A systematic review of the published literature on the health effects of PFAS.
2. A focus group study to determine the concerns of individuals living in the vicinity of Williamstown and Oakey have in relation to exposure to PFAS and their health.
3. A blood serum study to define the serum concentrations (mean and range) of PFAS in Williamstown and Oakey residents living in the Investigation Areas and to compare the levels to those of people residing in non-contaminated areas in the townships and surrounding areas.
4. A cross sectional survey to investigate the exposure and risk factors for high serum PFAS levels, including sociodemographic (e.g. age, sex, location) and other factors (e.g. duration of residence in the area, water source), and associations of high serum PFAS levels with common symptoms, signs and diagnosed illnesses in the Williamstown and Oakey communities.
5. A data linkage study to examine whether sex-specific age adjusted rates of diseases potentially associated with PFAS are higher among people who have lived in the Investigation Areas of Williamstown and Oakey compared to those living outside the Investigation Areas and in the general Australian population.

Additionally, as part of a \$5.7 million community support package for those impacted by PFAS emanating from RAAF Base Tindal, the Australian Government has extended its epidemiological study to the investigation area around RAAF Base Tindal. Katherine residents will be invited to join

this study and further details will be provided by the Australian Department of Health.
http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas.htm#expert_panel

Blood testing for Katherine Residents

NT Primary Health Network (NT PHN) has been working closely with a number of different Commonwealth Departments, particularly Australian Department of Health (Federal Health), to make voluntary PFAS blood testing available for Katherine residents.

The date of voluntary blood testing commenced on 17 March 2018 and blood sampling is currently underway by Gorge Health and Wurlu-Wurlinjang, the local Aboriginal community controlled health service.

Federal Health revised the existing fact sheets for consumers and health professionals to include Katherine information.

Mental health and counselling services

The Australian Government has funded dedicated mental health and counselling services for residents surrounding RAAF Base Tindal, NT Investigation Areas to support people during this period of uncertainty. The NT PHN is providing these services.

See <https://www.ntphn.org.au/community>

Expert Panel for PFAS

Federal Health established an 'Expert Panel for PFAS' in late 2017 to advise on potential human health impacts associated with PFAS exposure and to identify priority areas for further research. The Expert Panel had invited written submissions from the public on views about priorities for future research which has now closed. The Panel is providing advice to the National Health and Medical Research Council on priorities for the federal \$12.5M Research fund on PFAS and human health related issues. The Panel is currently finalising consideration of priority research items and reviewing the current literature and international scientific research on potential health effects of PFAS exposure and is expected to shortly provide a public report.

RAAF Base Darwin Defence Detailed Site Investigation

Though a Darwin related PFAS activity, the NT Department of Health also erected signs along Rapid Creek and Ludmilla Creek advising against swimming and collecting seafood from the creek till the Defence Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) is completed later in May 2018.

This action was taken with the release of the Detailed Site Investigation by Defence earlier in February which was reviewed by the PFAS Interagency Steering Committee and PFAS Interagency Working Group and the action endorsed. This action is consistent with the erection of signage in Katherine, pending the expected release of the final HHRA also later in May 2018.



Sign at Rapid Creek Fishing platform



Sign at bridge at Ludmilla Creek



Actual sign