

**Questions:**

Just an enquiry over why Defence has still not entered into a trade waste agreement with Hunter Water over connecting the Williamstown RAAF base to the sewer network?

Earlier this year Brigadier Beutel said an agreement would be reached by February.

Is it correct that Defence still disputes having limits placed on the amount of PFOS/PFOA it discharges into the sewerage system?

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/3650074/defence-ready-to-sign-for-sewer/>

**Response:**

In a letter from Brigadier Beutel to the Editor of the Newcastle Herald of 6 January 2016, and following a 9 December 2015 meeting between Defence and Hunter Water to progress negotiations over the Trade Waste Agreement, it was stated that '*subject to no further issues arising, Defence now anticipates the conclusion of negotiations and execution of the Trade Waste Agreement in February 2016*'.

Negotiations with Hunter Water continue. Defence remains committed to finalising the Trade Waste Agreement as quickly as possible and will be seeking a high level meeting with the Hunter Water Board to close out the outstanding issues as soon as practical.