

QUESTIONS

I was just hoping to get a comment this afternoon on the proceedings in the federal court between the Department of Defence and Williamstown residents:

- a) are you able to identify any of the parties Defence is considering counter-claims against? Would one of these be AFFF light water manufacturer 3M?
- b) Defence asked for more time to prepare its defence, why was that? Is Defence being cognizant of the impact of delays on residents in the area?
- c) Given it is using Australian government solicitors, will Defence be following model litigant principles?

RESPONSE TO ALL

The Department of Defence must ensure that legal claims are handled, and litigation is conducted, in accordance with the *Legal Services Directions 2005* (Cth). The obligation to act as a model litigant is set out in Appendix B of the *Legal Services Directions 2005* (Cth).

Additionally, the Commonwealth will comply with any orders and directions issued by the Federal Court in this matter.

As the matter is now before the Court, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this time.