

Questions:

1. Is Defence investigating the possibility of paying to connect some residents outside of the Williamstown contamination investigation area to town water?
2. If yes, what areas is Defence looking to connect? Approx how many residents?
3. Is it correct that Defence has discovered concentrations of PFAS approx 300 metres south of the investigation area in recent testing?
4. Is that what is prompting talk of connecting residents outside of the investigation area to town water?
5. Does Defence believe the Williamstown Community Reference Group is still necessary?

Response:

Yes, Defence is investigating the possibility of paying to connect some residents to town water outside the investigation area. Defence is examining options and will make a decision once the options have been considered.

A number of residents outside the investigation area have requested sampling of the tanks/bores on their properties for the presence of PFAS. These requests are being considered on a case by case basis.

On 31 August 2016, Defence was notified of two low level detections in a water tank and a groundwater bore at separate residences outside of the investigation area. Defence notified the residents of the properties and the NSW EPA of the detection and has commenced further sampling at the properties to verify the results. Defence is supplying the properties with alternative drinking water.

No, Defence was already examining options to connect a limited number of residents on the outside edge of the investigation area.

The Williamstown Community Reference Group is managed by the New South Wales Government. Defence is committed to working with the New South Wales Government to engage the local community.