

Questions:

I am looking at PFAS matters contained in MYEFO 16-17.

<http://www.budget.gov.au/2016-17/content/myefo/download/2016-17-MYEFO-combined.pdf>.

Printed page 142 says the govt will provide \$18m over four years from 2016-17 to manage PFAS contamination at RAAF Williamtown and has provisioned another \$37m for remediation etc at other Defence bases. It refers to a 14 June 2016 press release about this funding.

- Could you send me the press release? I can't find it.
- Why does the table above the explanatory text only show \$14m, not \$18m?
- Has the money simply been transferred from Defence's existing budget to Health, or vice versa?
- How many claims have been received seeking compensation from the Defence use of PFAS? (MYEFO page 246)
- Does the estimate of claims against the Dept of Defence (\$94.9m) include some or all the PFAS claims received so far?

Response to all:

Please find attached a copy of the joint press release titled 'Turnbull Coalition to address Defence contamination' released on 14 June 2016.

The table on page 142 of the report titled *Management of Per- and Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substances at Defence bases* outlines the breakdown of the \$14.03 million that is to be transferred from the Department of Defence's existing budget to the Department of Health for funding of human health-related measures at Williamtown and Oakey.

The \$18.0 million includes \$3.5 million provided to the Hunter Water Corporation to fund a water reticulation scheme connecting properties in the Williamtown investigation area to town water.

A class action was filed in the Federal Court of Australia and served on the Commonwealth on 2 November 2016 for alleged losses arising from Defence's historic use of Aqueous Film Forming Foam products at RAAF Base Williamtown. Documents filed in the proceedings do not inform as to the total number of persons or businesses in the class.

Defence has received a small number of unlitigated claims for compensation in relation to Williamtown and Oakey. It is not appropriate for Defence to publicly discuss the details of individual claims.

Defence can confirm that the \$94.9million that has been estimated as the value of quantifiable contingent liabilities on page 251 of the report does not include a provision for PFAS. PFAS claims are generally being categorised as non-remote and unquantifiable which are referenced at page 248 of the 2016-17 MYEFO report.

Information about making a claim for compensation can be found at <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/Compensation.asp>