

Questions

Australian Laboratory Services has informed us that due to "contractual restraints" and a "conflict of interest" in relation to the work it is doing for the Department of Defence, it is not able to perform environmental testing for either the Newcastle Herald or the Williamstown and Surrounds Residents Action Group.

Can you please advise:

- a) Whether the contract that exists between the Department of Defence and/or its contractors and Australian Laboratory Services precludes or in any way discourages ALS from doing testing for the Newcastle Herald or the Williamstown and Surrounds Residents Action Group?
- b) Whether Defence would withdraw its contacts from ALS if the company was to do testing for the Newcastle Herald and/or the Williamstown and Surrounds Residents Action Group?
- c) Whether Defence has actively discouraged ALS from doing testing for the Newcastle Herald or the Williamstown and Surrounds Residents Action Group?

Response to all:

Defence is currently not in contract with the Australian Laboratory Services. The lead consultants undertaking the investigations into PFAS independently engage labs to conduct testing for the environmental investigations. Defence has not discouraged any laboratory from conducting testing for any individuals, groups or businesses.