



THE HON DARREN CHESTER MP
Assistant Minister for Defence

Thursday, 3 December 2015

Defence Update to Williamtown Community

Defence representatives, including Air Vice Marshal Greg Evans attended the Community Reference Group meeting today where they provided updates on the environmental investigations and management of the contamination during current construction projects at RAAF Base Williamtown.

“As Defence works to fully understand the extent of the contamination it is imperative that the local community is kept fully informed of progress on the issue and any developments,” Air Vice Marshal Evans said.

“Defence remains committed to ensuring people have access to safe drinking water, to completing a thorough environmental investigation and considering what measures can be taken to manage the contamination on base and in the surrounding areas.”

The Community Reference Group was briefed on Defence’s decontamination of groundwater and soil management processes, as they are extracted during current construction works on base.

Defence has put in place a range of measures to ensure that site redevelopment does not further contaminate the area of surrounding environment.

These measures include dewatering, soil stockpiling and dust suppression.

Defence continues to work with NSW agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency during its ongoing environmental investigations and construction works.

Assistant Minister for Defence, Darren Chester has welcomed Defence’s ongoing engagement with the Williamtown community through the Williamtown Community Reference Group.

“I have directed Defence to make every effort to consider the best solutions for the contamination issue on and around the base and to continue to keep the local community fully informed of progress and developments,” Mr Chester said.

Further information is available at <http://www.defence.gov.au/id/Williamtown> or by calling the Community ‘hotline’ on 1800 011 443

Media contacts:

Brie Colley (Mr Chester’s office): 02 6277 4029
Defence Media Operations: 02 6127 1999