



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

CANBERRA ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA

Dear Resident

I am writing to inform you about developments in relation to the identification and management of environmental contamination in the area of the Commonwealth owned explosives manufacturing facility in Mulwala.

Studies undertaken by the Department of Defence in conjunction with ADI have detected elevated levels of nitrate, sulphate and ammonia in groundwater bores located at and adjacent to the Mulwala site. Recent investigations have also indicated evidence of other contamination on Commonwealth land near the facility.

In order to determine the full nature of contamination, further surveys are required, and this work will take place over the next few months. The surveys will provide more detailed information and better enable us to manage the issues.

As part of the community consultation process, and to assist in providing information on these issues, an information display will be set up in the Mulwala Public Library on 11 and 18 February. The display will be attended by an independent environmental scientist who will be available to answer questions.

A web-site will be set up on the Internet at www.defence.gov.au/deo/demf/deh. This site will provide up to date information on the status of the environmental works taking place in and around Mulwala. In addition, a hotline will be established for people without Internet access to call for updates on work progress.

Defence is committed to the effective resolution of the environmental issues at Mulwala. I trust that the arrangements being put in place will enable you to be kept fully informed of the progress with this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Bain'.

Ross Bain
Acting Head Defence Estate Organisation

31 January 2001