

# Minutes – Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

Tuesday 1 May 2018

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Venue: RAAF Base Tindal

## Attendees:

Errol Lawson	Community
Anthony Bartlett	Community
Petrena Ariston	Community
Meg Geritz	Community
Allan Domaschenz	Community
Fay Miller	KTC
Robert Jennings	KTC
Matthew Clarke	DoD
Andrew Tatnell	RAAF/DoD
Chris Horton	PWC
Robert Brito	PWC
Skefos Tsoukalis	PWC
Trevor Durling	PWC
Xavier Schobben	DoH
Paul Purdon	DENR/NTEPA
Jake Quinlivan – Chair	
Louise Beilby – Secretariat	

## Apologies:

Natalie Ellis	Community
Merlyn Smith	Community
Kevin Grey	Community

# Minutes – Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group - Tuesday 1 May 2018

## Absent or no response:

Warren De With	Community
May Rosas	Community
Sue Jones	Community
Lisa Mumbin	Community

---

**1 Acknowledgement of Country** Chairperson

**2 Apologies and membership** Chairperson

Chairperson notified members of apologies received including apology from Ms Smith regarding her concerns as to attending meeting on base and risk of higher exposure.

Members thanked Wing Commander Tatnell for the opportunity to undertake the Base Tour and appreciated the comprehensive information on the key sites.

**3 Confirmation of previous minutes** All

Moved: Meg Geritz

Seconded: Rob Jennings

**4 Update on Action Items** All

Refer to Action Register (Attachment A)

**5 Department of Defence (DoD)**

Only 13 properties of 62 remain for rainwater tank installation.

Matthew Clarke advised the rainwater tank policy, developed in consultation with Federal and Northern Territory health departments, states that if pest and vermin barriers are in place, no filtration is required. Both Governments have advised policy still stands.

Members discussed inconsistencies in roll out of in-line filtration program. DoD advised people can still request for installation if they have concerns.

Next community consultations will be in early June to release final Health Risk Assessment.

Investigation process concluding and will go into monitoring phase.

# Minutes – Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group - Tuesday 1 May 2018

Members discussed further opportunities to meet direct with Dr Sarah Richards. Some members discussed a preference to meet at Base.

Matthew advised contact details are available to discuss over phone or members can use shop-front forum for opportunity to meet.

**Action:** Request for Dr Richards to attend next meeting and/or facilitate meetings with members at Base or DCM.

**Responsibility:** KPCCG Chair/DoD

## 6 Department of Health

Department is still collecting Katherine cancer results from 2015. The expert panel is close to releasing the public report that is currently with DPM&C. DoH and DoD to get Food Standards NZ to review report.

Primary Health Network has released tender for health counselling.

## 7 Power and Water Corporation

Members were provided with a presentation of future water supply and treatment options with a recommendation of equal surface and groundwater supply.

Next steps are to undertake further community engagement to maintain water conservation measures, progress development of treatment plant and continue feasibility studies into new groundwater sites.

Presentation attached.

Funding has been allocated for Project Manager and accelerating in-principle agreement with DoD.

Conservation measures remains highest priority in PWC. Information on recent increase in demand was provided, and members were advised Living Water Smart program back on ground on 12 May to re-do water leak detections. To date 150 smart meters have been installed. School Engagement Program will also re-commence.

## 8 Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Information provided on role of DENR providing support to NTEPA, including representation on PFAS Steering Group, National Chemicals Working Group with reference to PFAS National Management Plan.

Currently also undertaking preliminary testing of 10 existing and legacy sites with NTPFES in Darwin and dependant on results may roll out NT Wide.

# Minutes – Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group - Tuesday 1 May 2018

## 9 Information and messaging for community members

The Priority information for the community developed and endorsed by the Group was sent to the Katherine Times as a Letter to the Editor in the name of, but without knowledge or approval, or KTC CEO Rob Jennings.

While the content was for public release, it is a concern that an individual has circumvented a key process that the Group identified as critical and put considerable time and effort into to provide a coordinated response.

Group discussed a future approach and agreed there should still be a mechanism to provide information to the public.

**Action:** Recommence second working group including Rob Jennings, Meg Geritz.

**Responsibility:** KPCCG Chair/Secretariat

**Action:** Mr Jennings to follow up formally with Katherine Times the unauthorised publication of material.

**Responsibility:** KTC

## 12. General Business

Communication: Meg offered any support members may require to increase communication to the broader public.

Processes: Chair advised if persons have any concerns regarding Department of Chief Minister's involvement in the PFAS Consultation Group there are complaint mechanisms within the Northern Territory Government.

11 **Next Meeting** Chairperson

Tuesday 19 June 2018, 5:30pm, Katherine Government Centre

**Meeting close** Chairperson

**Meeting closed at 8:30pm**

# Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

## Update on Action Items

Date	Action	Responsibility	Status	Comments
1.5.18	5.1 Request for Dr Richards to attend next meeting and/or facilitate meetings with members at Base or DCM.	KPCCG Chair/DoD	Completed	<i>The request to hold the meeting on base has been rejected, however NT Gov has agreed to the use of their conference room in the town's government building. Dr Richard's availability is on Tuesday 19 June from 4pm to 5:30pm.</i>
1.5.18	9.1 Recommence second working group including Rob Jennings, Meg Geritz.	KPCCG Chair/Secretariat	Ongoing	<i>Working group convened on 30 May 2018 – further discussion to be had at KPCCG meeting scheduled for 19 June 2018.</i>
1.5.18	9.3 Mr Jennings to follow up formally with Katherine Times regarding the unauthorised publication of material.	KTC	Completed	
6.2.18	4.1 Request a timeframe for availability of information from NT PFAS IASC in regards to the NTG response to site remediation e.g. former fire station, training facilities and access to the list of 67 sites identified by the NTEPA.	NTPFAS IASC/ Secretariat	Ongoing until information is provided	Currently investigation phase is ongoing
6.2.18	Arrange a deputation from NTEPA to a future meeting of the KPCCG to explain the role of the NTEPA.	NTPFAS IASC/ Secretariat	Completed	<i>Executive Director Environment Protection, Dept. Environment and Natural Resources attended 1 May 2018 meeting</i>

**Action Item Update**

6.2.18	5.1 DoD to provide follow up information and/or advice on the commitment to install filtration systems on rain water tanks supplied to affected residents.	DoD	Completed	Matthew Clarke advised status of rainwater tank and associated filtration policy. Members advised there were inconsistencies in roll out. DoD confirmed residents can still request installation
6.2.18	7.1 Follow up on discussions with DoD and PWC regarding residential point of use testing to give confidence to the community that nil detect water testing results recorded at the water treatment plant are comparative to results recorded at residential/household taps.	KPCCG Chair	Completed	<i>1 May 2018 – tests results provided, nil detect at all 4 public housing dwellings.</i>  <i>Sampling to be undertaken at four properties (Berhardt st, Giles St, Martin Tce, Callistemon Dr) week of 12 March 2018. Test results to be provided when available.</i>  Chair asked members to note that the identification of the public housing dwellings for testing (which did exclude Ms Smith's residence as a Committee member) was on a neutral basis to minimise any perception of bias or unfair advantage.
6.2.18	7.2 Provide information on the reason behind reports of 'dirty water' flowing from household taps in Katherine South.	PWC	Complete	Issue raised with Water Services and advice on action has been provided to Mr Domaschenz
6.2.18	8.1		Complete	

**Action Item Update**

	Provide formal advice to the KPCCG regarding National PFAS Task Force discussions around banks and lenders.	NTPFAS IASC/ Secretariat		<i>See Attachment B contained in Minutes of Meeting 4 from 6 February 2018 (p#</i>
6.2.18	9.1 Priority information, as detailed in agenda paper 3, endorsed by KPCCG for publication/inclusion in newspaper advertisement.	DoD/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>DoD to provide update on status and process for advertising</i>
6.2.18	9.2 'Rob Jennings commentary on DoD information material', as detailed in agenda paper 4, endorsed by KPCCG for inclusion/publication in newspaper advertisement.	DoD/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>Published in Katherine Times, Letters to the Editor, 14 February 2018 by an unknown source.</i>
6.2.18	9.3 Chair to follow up with MS regarding responses to questions.	KPCCG Chair	Complete	Responses provided from DoD, DoH, DCM, KTC
6.2.18	10.1 Request advice from NTPFAS IASC / DENR as to whether satellite scans, mapping and imaging collected during Katherine Flood Mitigation investigation has been offered to, or shared with Coffeys to assist with mapping water flows.	NTPFAS IASC	Complete	<i>This information has not previously been provided to Coffeys. On 8 March 2018 DENR provided Defence with contact details for the Department of infrastructure, Planning and Logistics (Katherine Office) to obtain this information.</i>
6.2.18	10.2 Request advice from DoD regarding document control and identification processes for property report sheets returned to residents.	DoD	Complete	<i>The resident's address are used as the unique identifier for correspondence sent to them, followed by date.  Contractors assist DoD with the drafting of this correspondence</i>

				<i>and they do not have access to the Defence Records Management System (DRMS) that would normally generate a file reference number. Further filing is done in DRMS by Defence at a later date but DoD still refer to correspondence with a resident by their residential address.</i>
6.2.18	10.3 Request a response to the following - In the Executive Summary of IHHRA, the Section – Conceptual Site Model lists two migration pathways namely Leaching to groundwater and Leaching and surface water run-off. In view of the several sinkholes in the Katherine area, and particularly within Tindal air base, has Coffey's considered a third migration path to the aquifer of surface run-off entering the sinkholes.	DoD/Coffey's	Complete	<i>The sinkholes represent a preferential pathway for surface water to infiltrate to groundwater. The overall process is the same, it is just faster via a sinkhole. The same occurs in reverse at the end of the wet season, where groundwater may discharge out of a sinkhole. Again the groundwater would discharge to the surface anyway through seeps, but the process occurs much faster through the sinkhole. The presence of sinkholes doesn't change the interpretation of the overall migration pathways or the exposure to receptors.</i>
6.2.18	10.4 Arrange a date for a site visit to Tindal.	KPCCG Chair/DoD	Complete	<i>1 May 2018 KPCCG meeting to be held at RAAF Base Tindal, including tour.</i>
6.2.18	10.5			



	<p>The Draft Final report of the Pepper Fracking Inquiry includes information that the flow rates of the Tindal aquifer is 10m/year in the southern section and 1000m/year in the northern section. Could Coffey's confirm that they have taken advice from a hydro geologist in analysing the flow patterns between Tindal and the Katherine river?</p>	<p>DoD/Coffey's</p>	<p>Complete</p>	<p><i>In preparing our hydrogeological conceptual model, we have referred to information available from NT government on the Tindall Aquifer. This information has been developed by DENR's hydrogeologists over many decades and many studies. The reports have been interpreted by our in-house hydrogeologists and in discussion with local NT groundwater specialists (including DENR and PWC hydrogeologists). Due to the Karstic formation, water velocities will vary greatly between cave systems and smaller fracture networks in massive rock. Flow rates will also vary between wet and dry seasons when the driving force changes. Further information is presented in the DSI report, which has now been published.</i></p>
<p>6.2.18</p>	<p>10.6 KTC to provide details on tourism marketing strategy for Katherine for the coming dry season.</p>	<p>KTC</p>		<p>KTC is working with Tourism NT. Marketing campaigns now word of mouth driven. Tourism NT is monitoring any comments in relation to PFAS on social media and is not seeing any close co-relation. Monitoring will continue over next 3 months and will be working to put a campaign together should there</p>

				be any impact on tourism numbers.
5.12.17	6.2 Request a response relating to NT cancer rates being higher than the national average	DoH	Ongoing	<i>See report for Agenda Item 6 from 6 February 2018. Special report is being compiled specifically for cancer rates in Katherine and is expected to be available in April 2018.</i>
5.12.17	5.1 Request a response from NT PFASIASC in regards to the NTG response to site remediation e.g. former fire station, training facilities etc	Secretariat	Complete	<i>See Agenda Paper 1 Item 4.1 – from 6 February 2018</i>
5.12.17	5.2 Request list of 67 sites identified by NTEPA	NTPFASIASC/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>See Agenda Paper 1 Item 4.1 – from 6 February 2018</i>
5.12.17	5.3 Request deputation from Peter Vasel to explain the role of the NTEPA	NTPFASIASC/ Secretariat	Complete	<i>See Agenda Paper 1 Item 4.1 – from 6 February 2018</i>
5.12.17	5.4 Email link of Coffey presentation to members	Secretariat	Complete	<a href="http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Tindal/Presentations/171204CommunityWalkinSessionPresentationDSIAndHHRA.pdf">http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Tindal/Presentations/171204CommunityWalkinSessionPresentationDSIAndHHRA.pdf</a> Emailed to members 6 December 2017.
5.12.17	6.1			<i>See Agenda Paper 2 Item 4.2 – from 6 February 2018</i>

	Request Department of Primary Industries and Resources fish test results taken from Daly River for release to the public.	DoH / NT PFASIASC	Complete	
5.12.17	8.1  Members to meet Monday 11 December, 1100, DCM Office to identify key topics for messaging through social media and Katherine Times. Info to be provided to broader group. Invite to be sent to all KPCCG members.	Secretariat / DCM SCE	Complete	<i>See Agenda Paper 3, Item 9.1 – from 6 February 2018</i>
14.11.17	8.1  KG, MG and AD to draft a letter of support for residents directly affected by the detection of PFAS on their properties.	KPCCG members	In progress	
14.11.17	4.1  Amend terms of reference to reflect that membership will be revoked if absent without apology for three consecutive meetings.	Secretariat	Complete	
14.11.17	4.2  Offer vacant position to May Rosas as a representative of the Aboriginal community	DCM PFIASASC Chair	Complete	Offer accepted.
14.11.17	4.3  Follow up with Lisa Mumbin regarding appointment to KPCCG	KPCCG Chair	Complete	Offer accepted.
14.11.17	4.4  Provide information related to contamination and spread of disease from bats	DoH	Complete	See Agenda Paper Item 6 – from 5 December 2017

**Action Item Update**

14.11.17	4.5 Seek information relating to concerns raised about current levels of PFAS in blood stored the blood bank.	MG/Australian Red Cross	Complete	Public policy available on Australian Red Cross website.
14.11.17	4.6 Action item 'Seek feedback on any additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent' to be moved to agenda as a standing item	Secretariat	Complete	Standing agenda item
14.11.17	7.1 Seek information regarding chlorination, fluorination and PFAS cocktail in reticulated water supply and whether there have been any studies undertaken to establish whether this is safe for human consumption	DoH	Complete	See Agenda Paper Item 6 from 5 December 2017
14.11.17	8.1.2 Follow up EASA regarding their capacity and capability to deal with PFAS related queries and requests for counselling	Secretariat	Complete	EASA services are available as per the usual panel contract arrangements.  EASA operate a face to face service in Katherine on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and staff can call the head Office in Darwin and book and appointment. They can also book telephone or skype sessions if that suits better which will be serviced by clinicians from Darwin.  Also if they visit Darwin they can book sessions at the head office in Stuart park

14.11.17	8.2 Request a response, in writing, from the PFASIASC Chair, to the following:  a) identify each and every PFASIASC member; and  b) advise terms of agreement of each PFASIASC member.  c) request a member of the PFASIASC to attend the KPCCG meeting to be scheduled for late January 2018.	Secretariat	Complete	See response in Agenda from 5 December 2017
14.11.17	8.2.1 Invite Senator Nigel Scullion to attend a future meeting of the KPCCG with the intention that :-  (a) that HON NIGEL SCULLION (PERSONALLY) provide and present a detailed briefing relative to Senate Inquiry into PFAS  (b) that HON NIGEL SCULLION (PERSONALLY) provide and present a briefing relative to the PFAS effect on Katherine Aboriginal Community	Secretariat	Complete	Awaiting response
14.11.17	9.1 distribute member initiated Draft Katherine Region PFAS Information Management Plan to KPCCG members for consideration	Secretariat	Complete	
17.10.17	4.1 All agreed that a visual representation of the governance structure, relationship between KPCCG, PFASISC, PFAS Task Force and politicians needed to be developed.	DCM Strategic Communications and Engagement	Complete	
	4.2			

17.10.17	<p>Recommendation to Chief Minister:</p> <p>All agreed that actions and information from KPCCG be disseminated to all politicians, independents and opposition.</p>	<p>DCM DepCE</p> <p>DCM Strategic Communications and Engagement</p>	Complete	
17.10.17	<p>4.3 &amp; 4.4</p> <p>Follow up with members who did not attend or respond to invitation to join KPCCG and enquire whether they wish to accept their offer of appointment or not.</p> <p>Discuss membership appointments at next meeting and seek recommendations for community representatives.</p>	DCM RED BRR	Complete	Correspondence and invites sent to all members. Seeking advice from KPCCG members.
17.10.17	<p>5.1</p> <p>School Principals are seeking talking points and clear messaging suitable for inclusion in newsletters, around potable water supply.</p>	DCM SCE in consultation with PWC and DoH	Complete	Updated messaging to be provided on an ongoing basis.
17.10.17	<p>6.1</p> <p>Members formally request that blood testing is made available as a priority to establish a baseline, particularly for those people living in a high risk area.</p>	PFASISC Chair	Complete	Blood testing available
17.10.17	<p>6.2</p> <p>Members request that further investigation be undertaken into causal effects.</p>	DoD, DoH	Complete	Expert PFAS panel established.
17.10.17	<p>4.5</p> <p>Establish mailing list for out of session information</p> <p>Chair discretion to call out of session meeting if required</p>	DCM Secretariat	Complete	

	<p>Add acknowledgement of country</p> <p>Amend Schedule 1, XS title from Dr to Mr</p>			
17.10.17	<p>5.2</p> <p>Address concerns regarding the safety of water by providing and making available accurate and detailed information.</p>	DoD	Complete	Results provided direct to PWC, KTC and residents.
17.10.17	<p>7.1</p> <p>Request to provide dates for when testing was conducted.</p> <p>Provide monthly statistics for tap and bore tests</p> <p>Use micro grams per litre instead of ppm as a unit of measurement to keep data consistent</p>	PWC	Complete	Test results available on PWC website
17.10.17	<p>7.2</p> <p>Seek feedback on any additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent</p>	KPCCG members	Complete	Moved to standing agenda item
17.10.17	<p>8.1</p> <p>Request to provide details on KTC pool filtration system to members</p> <p>Request to provide weekly updates on pool testing will be made available to the public</p>	Katherine Town Council	Complete	Filtration system is sand. Pool to open Thursday 16 November 2017. Testing results available on KTC website as they are received
17.10.17	<p>9.1</p> <p>Chair requested that feedback on first meeting be emailed through to secretariat</p> <p>Chair requested that members consider providing suggestions on subject matter experts for presentations and priorities to the KPCCG.</p>	KPCCG Chair & members	Complete	

	KPCCG members that didn't attend or respond to invitation to be contacted to gauge their level of interest and participation in the group			
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--