

# Minutes

## **Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group**

5:30pm 17 October 2017

**Katherine Government Centre**

### **Attendees:**

Anthony Bartlett  
Robert Jennings  
Meg Geritz  
Allan Domaschenz  
Fay Miller  
Xavier Schobben  
Matthew Clarke  
Chris Horton  
Andrew Tatnell  
Jake Quinlivan - Chair  
Nathanael Knapp – Secretariat  
Kim Wheatley  
Karen Vohland

### **Apologies:**

Errol Lawson  
Petrena Ariston  
Eslyn Fletcher – declined invitation for appointment to KPCCG  
Natalie Ellis  
Johannes Grimbeek

### **Absent or did not respond to invitation:**

Sue Jones  
Kevin Grey

Merlyn Smith

Lisa Mumbin

Warren De With

Craig Stevens

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**Item 1        Welcome**

Chair welcomed all in attendance.

**Item 2        Introductions**

All attendees provided a brief introduction.

**Item 3        Purpose**

Discussion regarding the purpose and formation of the KPCCG stemming from a lack of communication with the Katherine community. It is intended that the KPCCG provide advice on what information is needed for community members to make informed decisions and formulate key messaging in order to provide accurate information.

**Item 4        Terms of Reference**

Chair sought feedback and suggestions relating to the Terms of Reference.

Members discussed the importance of having a direct line of communication with the Australian Government/Minister responsible and/or local MP, MLA or Senator.

The role of the PFAS Inter Agency Steering Committee was explained to meeting attendees. The major role of the Steering Committee is to lead the NT Government input into the Commonwealth led Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) and the development and implementation of a strategy that will be used to manage PFAS-related issues in the NT. The option for minutes and actions of the KPCCG to go direct to the PFAS Task Force, within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, was also discussed.

Members discussed inviting alternative members to join the KPCCG.

Members discussed meeting frequency and agreed that a mailing list needs to be established to enable the Chair to disseminate relevant information in a timely manner.

Members agreed that an amendment be made to the Terms of Reference to allow the Chair to call an out of session meeting as required.

Members agreed that an 'acknowledgment of country' be added to the standing agenda.

**Action:**

All agreed that a visual representation of the governance structure, relationship between KPCCG, PFASISC, PFAS Task Force and politicians needed to be developed.

Responsibility: DCM Strategic Communications and Engagement

**Recommendation to Chief Minister:**

All agreed that actions and information from KPCCG be disseminated to all politicians, independents and opposition.

Responsibility: DCM DepCE

**Action:**

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.

Responsibility: DCM RED BRR

**Action:**

Discuss membership appointments at next meeting and seek recommendations for community representatives.

Responsibility: KPCCG members

**Action:**

Establish mailing list for out of session information

Chair discretion to call out of session meeting if required

Add acknowledgement of country

Amend Schedule 1, XS title from Dr to Mr

Responsibility: DCM Secretariat

**Item 5          Department of Defence**

Update provided on key actions being undertaken in regards to activities undertaken on base and in the community.

Key actions

- RAAF Base Tindal pool is open for community use. Defence are providing ongoing monitoring of PFAS levels in the Tindal pool.
- Rainwater tank program progressing well
- Contacted every school and offered bore and soil testing
- Defence Community Liaison Officer available for individual or organisation information sessions

Members were offered an invitation for a site visit to RAAF Base Tindal prior to one of the KPCCG meetings.

Members were informed that a 150KL allocation from town potable water supply is available for residents that have water tanks installed. Defence aims to have all tanks installed by the start of the wet season. Defence provided information regarding the allocation of potable water for water tanks installed.

**Action:**

School Principals are seeking talking points and clear messaging suitable for inclusion newsletters, around potable water supply.

Responsibility: DCM SCE in consultation with PWC and DoH

**Action:**

Address concerns regarding the safety of water by providing and making available accurate and detailed information.

Responsibility: DoD

**Item 6 Department of Health**

Provided background on development of the national Health Base Guidance Values released by the Commonwealth on 3 April 2017 and explained the difference between the setting of a standard and a guideline.

An information paper was provided to members in response to media reports regarding the incidence of cancer in Katherine. (Attachment A). Members were advised that the next cancer incidence analysis is expected to be released in December 2017.

Members discussed the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) that will identify exposure pathways and that it is anticipated to be available in April 2018. Members discussed the importance of fast tracking blood tests for Katherine residents in advance of the release of the (HHRA).

Members were provided information regarding national PFAS related guidelines and associated fact sheets and guidance statements and that these are available on line at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-pfas-hbgv.htm>.

Food Standards Australia New Zealand has also issued a recent statement on PFAS and Fruit which will be forwarded to the Secretariat for distribution to members. (Attachment B)

Tailored Frequently Asked Questions for Katherine document was also distributed to members. (Attachment C)

**Action:**

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.

Responsibility: PFASISC Chair

**Action:**

Members request that further investigation be undertaken into causal effects.

Responsibility: DoD, DoH

**Item 7      Power and Water Corporation**

Information sheet provided to members (Attachment D)

- Current PFAS levels in tap water
- Water smart program stats
- Water usage stats and treatment plant capability
- PFAS removal equipment
- Communications and media

**Action:**

Request to provide dates for when testing was conducted.

Provide monthly statistics for tap and bore tests

Use micro grams per litre instead of ppm as a unit of measurement to keep data consistent

Responsibility: PWC

**Action:**

Seek feedback on any additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent

Responsibility: KPCCG members

**Item 8      Other Business**

KTC Pool – members were provided an update on the Katherine Town Council pool

- Plan has been endorsed - taking water out to be put in sewerage system, filters to be cleaned; approx. 2 week process
- Investigating alternative filtration system

**Action:**

Request to provide details on KTC pool filtration system to members

Request to provide weekly updates on pool testing will be made available to the public

Responsibility: Katherine Town Council

Members discussed information from the KPCCG meeting that could be discussed on Katherine 8KTR radio.

Members agreed that 8ktr has been asked to put forward the position of the group as a whole rather than singling out individual members.

Members agreed that 8KTR consider continuing with guest speakers.

Members discussed membership and conflicts of interest. Members agreed that it would be appropriate for any member to step down from the KPCCG at any time should they feel the need to do so.

**Item 9            Next Meeting**

5:30pm, Tuesday 14 November 2017, Katherine Government Centre First Floor Government Centre.

**Action:**

Chair requested that feedback on the first meeting be emailed through to secretariat.

Chair requested that members consider providing suggestions on subject matter experts for presentations and priorities to the KPCCG.

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

Responsibility: KPCCG Chair

**Meeting closed at 7:45 pm**

# Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

## Update on Action Items

| Date     | Action   | Responsibility                              | Status   |  |
|----------|--|---|----------|--|
| 17.10.17 | 4.1<br>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 |          |  |
| 17.10.17 | 4.2<br>Recommendation to Chief Minister:<br>All agreed that actions and information from KPCCG be disseminated to all politicians, independents and opposition.          | DCM DepCE                                   |          |  |
| 17.10.17 | 4.3<br>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.       | DCM RED BRR                                 |          |  |
| 17.10.17 | 4.4<br>Discuss membership appointments at next meeting and seek recommendations for community representatives.   | KPCCG members                               |          |  |
| 17.10.17 | 4.5<br>Establish mailing list for out of session information<br>Chair discretion to call out of session meeting if required  | DCM Secretariat                             | COMPLETE |  |

|          |   |  |  |  |
|----------|---|--|--|--|
|          | Add acknowledgement of country<br>Amend Schedule 1, XS title from Dr to Mr  |  |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 5.1<br>School Principals are seeking talking points and clear messaging suitable for inclusion newsletters, around potable water supply.  | DCM SCE in consultation with PWC and DoH |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 5.2<br>Address concerns regarding the safety of water by providing and making available accurate and detailed information.  | DoD                                      |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 6.1<br>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.   | PFASISC Chair                            |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 6.2<br>Members request that further investigation be undertaken into causal effects.  | DoD, DoH                                 |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 7.1<br>Request to provide dates for when testing was conducted.<br>Provide monthly statistics for tap and bore tests<br>Use micro grams per litre instead of ppm as a unit of measurement to keep data consistent | PWC                                      |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 7.2<br>Seek feedback on any additional information that needs to be captured to keep messaging accurate, relevant and consistent  | KPCCG members                            |  |  |



|          |  |                        |  |  |
|----------|--|------------------------|--|--|
| 17.10.17 | 8.1<br>Request to provide details on KTC pool filtration system to members<br>Request to provide weekly updates on pool testing to be made available to the public   | Katherine Town Council |  |  |
| 17.10.17 | 9.1<br>Chair requested that feedback on first meeting be emailed through to secretariat<br>Chair requested that members consider providing suggestions on subject matter experts for presentations and priorities to the KPCCG.<br>KPCCG members that didn't attend or respond to invitation to be contacted to gauge their level of interest and participation in the group | DCM Chair              |  |  |