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The ESA is seeking budget funding to undertake assessments of its sites (refer to Table 1) to determine if contamination has occurred.

EPA

28. The EPA is changing landfill and sewage treatment plant licenses to incorporate sampling for PFAS's in the standard monitoring programs to determine if discharges or inflows of PFAS are occurring at the facilities.
29. The EPA and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSSD) have developed a sampling plan that should quantify (occurrence and concentration) of PFAS across the ACT. Sampling will involve existing government water monitoring sites as well as, landfill, industrial, and sewage treatment sites. The sampling program will follow the methods outlined in the NEMP and is expected to begin by November 2018.
30. The former Charnwood Fire Station site is being redeveloped as a childcare centre. This site was assessed and found suitable by ACT Health and the EPA for community use including a childcare centre, if suitable mitigation measures are implemented. The building owners have prepared an Operational Environment Management Plan (OEMP) which was endorsed by the EPA on 15 March 2018. A condition of the EPA's endorsement is that prior to occupancy of the site, the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA must receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed.
31. In addition, ACT Health approval is conditional on the applicant providing ACT Health with details of where each proposed mitigation barrier will be implemented across the site and an onsite inspection undertaken by Health Protection Service officers following the installation of mitigation measures.
32. The former Greenway Fire Station site was readapted as an Ambulance Station about 18 months ago.
26. The former Belconnen Fire Station is a Government owned site which is currently not in use and waiting potential redevelopment. Further assessment, in accordance with the EPA Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy 2017 and the NEMP, will determine the level of management or remediation required before redevelopment occurs.
27. There is groundwater extraction near the Belconnen site which used for car washing. This water is not used for drinking supply or agricultural production. Thus the exposure pathways to humans from potential PFAS contamination of groundwater at this site is a negligible risk.

Financial Implications

33. ESA advise that the indicative cost to conduct assessments, including sampling and analysis of the ACT Fire & Rescue sites listed in Table 1 is approximately \$55,000 per site.

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ConsultationCross Directorate

34. Dominic Lane Commissioner, ESA, Mark Brown Chief Officer, ACT Fire & Rescue, Conrad Barr Executive Director HPS ACT Health, Dr Paul Kelly Chief Health Officer, ACT Health, Greg Jones, Worksafe Commissioner, David Clapham Acting Manager, Strategic Policy & Cabinet, CMTEDD and Daniel Walters, Senior Manager, Environment Protection Policy, EPSDD have been consulted in the preparation of this brief.

External

35. Nil

Benefits/Sensitivities

36. The United Firefighters Union have recently raised concerns around potential health impacts for firefighters who may have come into contact with PFAS.

Media Implications

37. The Access Canberra Communications and Media Team have developed speaking points for this matter which has high media interest.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Signatory Name: | Alison Purvis | Phone: 55275 |
| Action Officer: | Narelle Sargent | Phone: 75782 |

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Priority list of sites for PFAS testing

| | Risk Rating | Priority Rating | ACTF&R Comments | CWI Comments |
|--|---------------|-----------------|--|---|
| Belconnen ACTF&R and Training Centre | High | 1 | This was the primary training site for ACTF&R from the mid-1980s through to 2014. AFFF was definitely used on-site. | Assessment works are in progress. Final report expected end October 2017. Funds are available. |
| Fyshwick Fire & Rescue Station | Medium / High | 2 | A considerable amount of operational training and vehicle testing was undertaken in the rear yard during the period in which AFFF was used. | CWI recommends an assessment be undertaken |
| Gungahlin JESC (includes ACTF&R, ACTAS, RFS, SES and ACT Policing) | Medium | 3 | This station has CAFS units since 2004 which entails ongoing pump testing. CAFS uses Class A foam concentrate, not AFFF. | CWI recommends an assessment be undertaken |
| Chisholm Fire & Rescue Station | Medium | 3 | This station has CAFS units since 2004 which entails ongoing pump testing. CAFS uses Class A foam concentrate, not AFFF. | CWI recommends an assessment be undertaken |
| Ainslie Fire & Rescue Station | Low | 4 | It is possible that training using AFFF was undertaken at this station but the small available yard means that this is less likely than for other sites. | |
| Phillip Fire & Rescue Station | Low | 4 | It is possible that training using AFFF was undertaken at this station but the small available yard means that this is less likely than for other sites. | |
| Kambah Fire & Rescue Station and Workshops | Low | 4 | Kambah was used as the ACTF&R workshops for many years and this means that there is the potential for AFFF to have been used as part of pump testing. | |
| Old Charnwood ACTF&R Site – LDA Site | Low | 5 | | Note: This parcel of land has been officially handed over to the LDA. There may be a risk that the LDA approaches JACS to do additional assessments to confirm levels of PFOS if any. |
| Greenway Ambulance Station – Former ACTF&R | Low | 5 | | |
| Forrest Fire & Rescue Station + Flat | Low | 5 | | |

Moroney, Rebecca (Health)

From: Moroney, Rebecca (Health) on behalf of Barr, Conrad (Health)
Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 3:38 PM
To: Pengilley, Andrew (Health)
Subject: FW: Gordon Ramsay MLA - PFAS contamination in the ACT 19062018 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=Sensitive]
Attachments: Gordon Ramsay MLA - PFAS contamination in the ACT 19062018.docx

Rebecca Moroney | Personal Assistant to Executive Director
Phone: 02 6205 4402 | Email: Rebecca.L.Moroney@act.gov.au
Health Protection Service | Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health | ACT Government
25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | health.act.gov.au/hps

From: Hudson, Lyndell (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 June 2018 4:37 PM
To: Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>; Pengilley, Andrew (Health) <Andrew.Pengilley@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Gordon Ramsay MLA - PFAS contamination in the ACT 19062018 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=Sensitive]

Hi Conrad and Andrew

I have added comments to # 14 and #30.

Regards,



Lyndell Hudson | Senior Manager Environment and Radiation Safety
Health Protection Service | health.act.gov.au
Phone (02) 6205 0956 | Mobile [REDACTED]

From: Barr, Conrad (Health)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 June 2018 1:13 PM
To: Pengilley, Andrew (Health) <Andrew.Pengilley@act.gov.au>; Hudson, Lyndell (Health) <Lyndell.Hudson@act.gov.au>
Subject: Gordon Ramsay MLA - PFAS contamination in the ACT 19062018 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=Sensitive]

FYI
Latest draft from Narelle with a few changes. Your input appreciated?
Thanks
Conrad



MINISTERIAL BRIEF

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Minister for Regulatory Services Tracking No.: Click here to enter text.

Date: 19 June 2018

CC: Minister for Planning and Land Management

From: Alison Purvis, Chief Operating Officer

Subject: PFAS contamination issues in the ACT

Critical Date: 22 June 2018

Critical Reason: Must be considered prior to Estimates

Purpose

To provide an update on PFAS contamination issues in the ACT.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

MLA /...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

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Tracking No.: Click here to enter text.Tracking No.:

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Background**PFAS - Nationally**

1. The compounds known as perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOA) were used to make aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), a component of fire-fighting foams. Collectively these compounds are referred to as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
2. PFAS are part of a diverse group of man-made chemicals also found in a range of common household products including non-stick cookware, fabric, furniture and food packaging. They are resistant to heat, water, and oil.
3. For decades, PFAS were used in AFFF as well as a range of industrial/manufacturing processes.
4. PFAS are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment, that is, they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time.
5. Australian health authorities, including ACT Health, report that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS causes any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer. There is also no consistent evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women of their babies.
6. Despite the current lack of certainty regarding the adverse effects of PFAS on organisms, the persistent nature of PFAS means a precautionary approach for managing PFAS has been adopted.
7. Governments in Australia work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination* (February 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions in March 2018.
8. The ACT is a participant on the Heads of Environment Protection Authorities Australia and New Zealand (HEPA) National Chemicals Working Group, which developed the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP).
9. The NEMP details environmental concentrations of PFAS for use in ecological and human health risk assessments, based on a precautionary approach. The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
- ~~9.10. The NEMP defines the level of PFAS in soil and water that is considered contamination. The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.~~
- ~~10.11. Issues with PFAS that have been widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies.~~
- ~~11.12. Such issues are improbable in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.~~

PFAS – Jervis Bay Territory

- ~~12.13. The ACT Government is contracted by the Commonwealth Government to supply certain services to Jervis Bay Territory (JBT), including education, licences, justice services and environmental water testing.~~
- ~~13.14. Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) is briefing the Chief Minister on issues with PFAS in JBT. ACT Health is currently working with NSW EPA to advise the Commonwealth Government on develop community~~

Commented [HL(1): Should make it clear that we will not be providing the advice to the public/JBT but providing advice to DIRD (what they do with the advice is out of our control)

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health advice relating to the consumption of marine life in JBT as a result of Defence's ongoing PFAS investigation. A copy of this briefing will be provided to you when complete.

- 14.15. The ACT Government is unable to progress assessment or remediation at Commonwealth sites because the Commonwealth is not bound by ACT legislation.

PFAS in the ACT

- 15.16. AFFF containing PFAS are no longer used in the ACT by ACT firefighting agencies. The phasing out of AFFF concentrate by ACT Fire & Rescue commenced in September 2004. It was completely withdrawn from service in April 2005 and replaced with fluorine-free foam concentrate.
- 16.17. ACT Fire & Rescue still carry nine (9) litre AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles, which are currently being replaced with fluorine-free alternatives.

Issues

The ACT and PFAS

- 17.18. There are three known PFAS affected sites in the ACT: Canberra Airport which is located on Commonwealth land and the former Charnwood and Belconnen Fire Station sites, located on Territory land.
- 18.19. AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was also used in training exercises. There are a number of other facilities in the ACT that are likely to have stored or used AFFF and thus have the potential for PFAS contamination.
- 19.20. In addition, landfills and waste water/sewerage treatment plants are potential sources of PFAS contamination from household, commercial and industrial wastes and discharges.
- 20.21. Potential PFAS contaminated sites in the ACT are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Potential PFAS contaminated sites in the ACT

| Facility | Location | PFAS Contamination |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Commonwealth | | |
| HMAS Harman | Woods Lane, Jerrabomberra, ACT | Potential |
| Duntroon Royal Military College | Staff Cadet Avenue, Campbell, ACT | Potential |
| Canberra Airport | Pialligo Avenue, ACT | Confirmed |
| Majura Firing range | Malcolm Vale Road, Pialligo, ACT | Potential |
| Australian Federal Police Majura | 1 Tambreet St, Majura, ACT | Potential |
| Canberra Deep Space Discovery Centre | Discovery Drive, Paddys River, ACT | Potential |
| ACT Government | | |
| Charnwood fire station (former) | 35 Lhotsky St, Charnwood, ACT | Confirmed |
| Belconnen fire station (former) | 41 Rae St, Belconnen, ACT | Confirmed |
| Greenway fire station (former) | 201 Scollay St, Greenway ACT | Potential |
| Fyshwick fire station | 1 Dalby St, Fyshwick ACT | Potential |
| Gungahlin fire station | Anthony Rolfe Ave, Gungahlin ACT | Potential |
| Ainslie fire station | 36 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, ACT | Potential |
| Phillip fire station | Hindmarsh Dr & Botany St, Phillip ACT | Potential |
| Kambah fire station | 500 Sulwood Dr, Kambah ACT | Potential |

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| | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Mugga Lane Resource Recovery Facility | 499 Mugga Lane, Jerrabomberra, ACT | Potential |
| West Belconnen Resource Management Centre | 181 Parkwood Rd, MacGregor, ACT | Potential |
| Rail Depot Kingston | Cunningham Street, Kingston, ACT | Potential |

ACT Fire and Rescue/ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA)/ACT Health/Worksafe ACT

- ~~21-22.~~ The ACT ESA have been working hard to ensure equipment is replaced and changed over.
- ~~22-23.~~ There is no perceived benefit in blood screening for PFAS in ACT firefighters as there are no benchmarks to relate the results to.
- ~~23-24.~~ The ACT ESA is working with WorkSafe ACT to ensure work health and safety obligations are met.
- ~~24-25.~~ The ACT ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining sites and further testing will be done at the higher priority locations in the near future (need advice on how the sites are to be prioritised and an anticipated date for *near future*)
- ~~25-26.~~ ESA is seeking budget funding to undertake assessments of its sites (refer to Table 1) to determine if contamination has occurred.
- ~~26-27.~~ ESA is responsible for its sites and under the polluter pays principle in the *Environment Protection Act 1997*, has responsibility for remediation of contamination at the Belconnen site.

EPA

- ~~27-28.~~ The EPA is changing landfill and sewage treatment plant licenses to incorporate sampling for PFAS's in the standard monitoring programs to determine if discharges or inflows of PFAS are occurring at the facilities.
- ~~28-29.~~ The EPA and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have developed a sampling program to characterise potential PFAS sources and movements in the ACT and ensure the ACT meets the requirements of the NEMP. The sampling plan includes existing water monitoring sites and landfill, fuel storage and sewage treatment plant sites This detailed sampling program is expected to begin by November 2018.
- ~~29-30.~~ The former Charnwood Fire Station has been redeveloped as a childcare center. The infrastructure was removed and validated with the site being found suitable for community use including childcare. The building owners have prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) which was endorsed by the EPA on 15 March 2018. Prior to occupancy of the site, the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed.
26. The former Belconnen Fire Station and Greenway Fire Station sites are Government sites which are currently not in use and waiting potential redevelopment. Further assessment, in accordance with the EPA Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy 2017, will determine the level of management or remediation required before

Commented [BC(2)]: Has it been redeveloped, or is being redeveloped?

Commented [HL(3)]: Only with mitigation strategies to reduce exposure pathways, to vulnerable population, of PFAS contamination.

I still think the current wording is misleading

Commented [HL(4)]: EH are not aware that the mitigation strategies have been installed. As part of our approval we need to do an inspection and this has not occurred or been requested.

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redevelopment occurs. There is groundwater extraction near the Belconnen site which used for car washing. This water is not used for drinking supply or agricultural production. Thus the exposure pathways to humans from potential PFAS contamination of groundwater at this site is a negligible risk.

Financial Implications

~~30~~31. ESA to provide information

Consultation

Cross Directorate

~~31~~32. Dominic Lane ESA, Mark Brown ACT Fire and Rescue, Conrad Barr ACT Health, Dr Paul Kelly ACT Health, Greg Jones, Worksafe, David Clapham CMTEDD and Daniel Walters, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have been consulted in the preparation of this brief.

External

~~32~~33. Nil

Benefits/Sensitivities

~~33~~34. The United Firefighters Union have recently raised concerns around potential health impacts for firefighters who may have come into contact with PFAS. Nil

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Media Implications

~~34~~35. The Access Canberra Communications and Media Team have developed speaking points for this matter which has high media interest.

Signatory Name: Alison Purvis

Phone: 55275

Action Officer: Narelle Sargent

Phone: 75782

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Tracking No.: [Click here to enter text.](#) Tracking No.:

Moroney, Rebecca (Health)

From: Moroney, Rebecca (Health) on behalf of Barr, Conrad (Health)
Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 3:38 PM
To: Pengilley, Andrew (Health)
Subject: FW: REVISED: Ministerial Brief - PFAS contamination issues in the ACT
Attachments: Gordon Ramsay MLA - PFAS contamination in the ACT 19062018.docx

Rebecca Moroney | Personal Assistant to Executive Director
 Phone: 02 6205 4402 | Email: Rebecca.L.Moroney@act.gov.au
 Health Protection Service | Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health | ACT Government
 25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | health.act.gov.au/hps

From: Sargent, Narelle
Sent: Tuesday, 19 June 2018 8:41 AM
To: Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>; Kelly, Paul (Health) <Paul.Kelly@act.gov.au>
Subject: REVISED: Ministerial Brief - PFAS contamination issues in the ACT

Hi Conrad and Paul

From the talking points developed on Friday, I have progressed a revised draft Brief for Minister Ramsay on PFAS contamination issues in the ACT.

One question is in regards to the advice at:

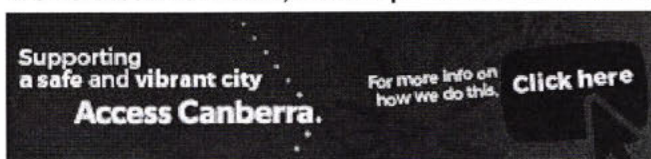
4. PFAS are very stable compounds and do not break down in the environment, that is, they persist in the environment and in human bodies for a long time and then
5. Australian health authorities, including ACT Health, report that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS causes any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer. There is also no consistent evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women of their babies.

The Minister questioned the statement about persist in the human body and no conclusive proof – can we explain why this is the case ie lack of research etc...

Additional comments and suggestions are very much appreciated.

Warm regards
 Narelle

Narelle Sargent | Deputy Director Environment Protection (*Environment Protection Authority*)
 Phone: 02 6207 5782 | Mobile [REDACTED] | Email: narelle.sargent@act.gov.au
 Access Canberra | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT
 470 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au/accessCBR





**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate**

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Minister for Regulatory Services

Date: 19 June 2018

CC: Minister for Planning and Land Management

From: Alison Purvis, Chief Operating Officer

Subject: PFAS contamination issues in the ACT

Critical Date: 22 June 2018

Critical Reason: Must be considered prior to Estimates

Tracking No.: Click here to enter text.

Purpose

To provide an update on PFAS contamination issues in the ACT.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

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Background**PFAS - Nationally**

1. The compounds known as perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOA) were used to make aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), a component of fire-fighting foams. Collectively these compounds are referred to as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
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5. Australian health authorities, including ACT Health, report that there is no conclusive proof that PFAS causes any specific illnesses in humans, including cancer. There is also no consistent evidence that PFAS causes adverse human health outcomes in pregnant women of their babies.
6. Despite the current lack of certainty regarding the adverse effects of PFAS on organisms, the persistent nature of PFAS means a precautionary approach for managing PFAS has been adopted.
7. Governments in Australia work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the *Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination* (February 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions in March 2018.
8. The ACT is a participant on the Heads of Environment Protection Authorities Australia and New Zealand (HEPA) National Chemicals Working Group, which developed the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP).
9. The NEMP defines the level of PFAS in soil and water that is considered contamination. The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
10. Issues with PFAS that have been widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies.
11. Such issues are improbable in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.

PFAS – Jervis Bay Territory

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Commonwealth sites because the Commonwealth is not bound by ACT legislation.

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Issues**The ACT and PFAS**

17. There are three known PFAS affected sites in the ACT: Canberra Airport which is located on Commonwealth land and the former Charnwood and Belconnen Fire Station sites, located on Territory land.
18. AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was also used in training exercises. There are a number of other facilities in the ACT that are likely to have stored or used AFFF and thus have the potential for PFAS contamination.
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ACT Fire and Rescue/ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA)/ACT Health/Worksafe ACT

21. The ACT ESA have been working hard to ensure equipment is replaced and changed over.
22. There is no perceived benefit in blood screening for PFAS in ACT firefighters as there are no benchmarks to relate the results to.
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24. The ACT ESA has undertaken a risk assessment to prioritise the testing of remaining sites and further testing will be done at the higher priority locations in the near future (need advice on how the sites are to be prioritised and an anticipated date for *near future*)
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Financial Implications

30. ESA to provide information

ConsultationCross Directorate

31. Dominic Lane ESA, Mark Brown ACT Fire and Rescue, Conrad Barr ACT Health, Dr Paul Kelly ACT Health, Greg Jones, Worksafe, David Clapham CMTEDD and Daniel Walters, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have been consulted in the preparation of this brief.

External

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Benefits/Sensitivities

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Media Implications

34. The Access Canberra Communications and Media Team have developed speaking points for this matter which has high media interest.

Signatory Name: Alison Purvis

Phone: 55275

Action Officer: Narelle Sargent

Phone: 75782

UNCLASSIFIED

Moroney, Rebecca (Health)

From: Moroney, Rebecca (Health) on behalf of Barr, Conrad (Health)
Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 3:39 PM
To: Pengilley, Andrew (Health)
Subject: FW: MO REQUEST - Brief on PFAS sites [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Attachments: Ministerial Brief - PFAS including site list.docx

Rebecca Moroney | Personal Assistant to Executive Director

Phone: 02 6205 4402 | Email: Rebecca.L.Moroney@act.gov.au

Health Protection Service | Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health | ACT Government

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | health.act.gov.au/hps

From: Chester, Heath
Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2018 3:52 PM
To: Walters, Daniel <Daniel.WALTERS@act.gov.au>; Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>; Clapham, David <David.Clapham@act.gov.au>; Brown, Mark <Mark.Brown@act.gov.au>
Cc: Power, David <DAVID.POWER@act.gov.au>; Sargent, Narelle <Narelle.Sargent@act.gov.au>; Hudson, Lyndell (Health) <Lyndell.Hudson@act.gov.au>; Lewer, Kendall <Kendall.Lewer@act.gov.au>; Jones, Pat <Pat.Jones@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO REQUEST - Brief on PFAS sites [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Sorry

Now with the attachment

From: Chester, Heath
Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2018 3:43 PM
To: Walters, Daniel <Daniel.Walters@act.gov.au>; Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>; Clapham, David <David.Clapham@act.gov.au>; Brown, Mark <Mark.Brown@act.gov.au>
Cc: Power, David <DAVID.POWER@act.gov.au>; Sargent, Narelle <Narelle.Sargent@act.gov.au>; Hudson, Lyndell (Health) <Lyndell.Hudson@act.gov.au>; Lewer, Kendall <Kendall.Lewer@act.gov.au>; Jones, Pat <Pat.Jones@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: MO REQUEST - Brief on PFAS sites [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi

We have a request from Ministers for an updated (coordinated) brief on PFAS.

Attached is a draft could you please review and add your components as relevant

The due date to the Ministers is 22 June

Regards

Heath

From: Sargent, Narelle
Sent: Wednesday, 13 June 2018 1:43 PM
To: Chester, Heath <Heath.Chester@act.gov.au>
Cc: Power, David <DAVID.POWER@act.gov.au>
Subject: FW: MO REQUEST - Brief on PFAS sites [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Heath

Please find attached the draft MO on PFAS contaminated sites

Can you please edit/rearrange so it addressed the questions below:

all the confirmed and potential PFAS contaminated sites, associated next steps and which agency is responsible for what please.

The MO will then go to EPSDD and ESA and ACT Health for comment.

Should we also consult with David Clapham?

Thanks

Narelle

From: Purvis, Alison
Sent: Wednesday, 13 June 2018 12:35 PM
To: Sargent, Narelle <Narelle.Sargent@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: MO REQUEST - Brief on PFAS sites [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Narelle

I spoke with Conrad Barr this morning and he said they were involved in the testing of the Charnwood site. Could you seek his comments, as well as those of EPSDD, on the brief please?

Thanks

Alison

From: Jenkins, Kylie **On Behalf Of** ACDLO
Sent: Wednesday, 13 June 2018 9:26 AM
To: Sargent, Narelle <Narelle.Sargent@act.gov.au>
Cc: Purvis, Alison <Alison.PURVIS@act.gov.au>; McPherson, Alex <Alex.McPherson@act.gov.au>
Subject: MO REQUEST - Brief on PFAS sites [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Hi Narelle

The MO has requested a brief be prepared, in consultation with ESA, and to both Minister Ramsay and Minister Gentleman, on all the confirmed and potential PFAS contaminated sites, associated next steps and which agency is responsible for what please. As part of this, the MO has requested the exact location of all sites eg not simply the old Fire Station in X but the actual address please. The MO has requested this brief be with both Ministers by Friday 22 June please.

In addition, the MO has requested the exact location of the former fire station site in Charnwood today please.

Please give me a ring if you need any clarification.

Thanks

Kylie

Kylie Jenkins | Directorate Liaison Officer – Regulatory Services

Ph: 02 6205 4007 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Email: ACDLO@act.gov.au

Access Canberra | Chief Minister Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government
Legislative Assembly | GPO Box 1020 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au





Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic
Development Directorate

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Minister for Regulatory Services

Tracking No.: Click here to enter text.

Date: 13 May 2018

CC: Minister for Planning and Land Management

From: Alison Purvis, Chief Operating Officer

Subject: PFAS Contamination in the ACT

Critical Date: 22 June 2018

Critical Reason: Click here to enter text.

Purpose

To provide an update on PFAS issues in the ACT.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

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Background

1. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse group of compounds resistant to heat, water, and oil. For decades, they have been used in aviation fire-fighting foams (AFFF) as well as being used in a range of industrial/manufacturing processes. The persistent nature of PFAS means it can bio-accumulate in organisms high up in the food chain (ie humans) which represents a potential long term issue.
2. PFAS containing AFFF are no longer used in the ACT by ACT firefighting agencies. The phasing out of AFFF concentrate by ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) commenced in September 2004 and it was completely withdrawn from service in April 2005 and replaced with fluorine-free foam concentrate. ACTF&R still carry nine (9) litre AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles, with these currently being replaced with fluorine-free alternatives.
3. Governments in Australia now work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with an Intergovernmental Agreement (February 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions March 2018.
4. The NEMP details the concentrations of PFAS that are currently considered to represent human and ecological harm (essentially defines the level of PFAS in soil & water that is considered 'contamination'). The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
5. The issues with PFAS that have been widely reported in other jurisdictions have involved direct contamination of drinking water and/or food supplies. Such issues are improbable in the ACT because of the remote catchments used for town water supply and the insignificant volume of food production in the ACT.
6. AFFF was specifically used to suppress flammable liquid fires and was also used in training exercises. There are a number of other facilities in the ACT that are likely to have stored or used AFFF and thus have the potential for PFAS contamination. These sites are listed in table below.

| Facility | Location | PFAS Contamination |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Commonwealth | | |
| | | |
| HMAS Harman | Woods Lane, Jerrabomberra, ACT | Potential |
| Duntroon Royal Military College | Staff Cadet Avenue, Campbell, ACT | Potential |
| RAAF Fairbairn/ Canberra Airport | Pialligo Avenue, Pialligo, ACT | Confirmed |
| Majura Firing range | Malcolm Vale Rd, Pialligo, ACT | Potential |
| Australian Federal Police Majura | 1 Tambreet St, Majura, ACT | Potential |

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| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Canberra Deep Space Discovery Centre | Discovery Drive, Paddys River, ACT | Potential |
| | | |
| ACT Government | | |
| | | |
| Charnwood fire station | 35 Lhotsky St, Charnwood, ACT | Confirmed |
| Greenway fire station | 201 Scollay St, Greenway ACT | Potential |
| Belconnen fire station | 41 Rae St, Belconnen, ACT | Confirmed |
| Fyshwick fire station | 1 Dalby St, Fyshwick ACT | Potential |
| Gungahlin fire station | Anthony Rolfe Ave, Gungahlin ACT | Potential |
| Ainslie fire station | 36 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie, ACT | Potential |
| Phillip fire station | Hindmarsh Dr & Botany St, Phillip ACT | Potential |
| Kambah fire station | 500 Sulwood Dr, Kambah ACT | Potential |
| Mugga Lane Resource Recovery Facility | 499 Mugga Lane, Jerrabomberra, ACT | Potential |
| West Belconnen Resource Management Centre | 181 Parkwood Rd, MacGregor, ACT | Potential |
| Rail Depot Kingston | Cunningham Street, Kingston, ACT | Potential |
| | | |

7. The Emergency Service Agency (ESA) is seeking budget funding to undertake assessments of its sites to determine if contamination has occurred. These include the former Belconnen Fire Station and Training Centre, the current Fyshwick, Gungahlin, Chisholm, Ainslie, Phillip and Kambah Fire Stations, and the former fire station site Greenway.
8. Prior to adoption of the NEMP, the ACT EPA, in conjunction with the National Capital Authority and Icon Water, undertook sampling across ACT waterways to determine background levels of PFAS. The water sampling results did not detect PFAS in ACT waterways. This sampling was limited and further, more targeted, sampling will be undertaken in accordance with the NEMP.
9. The EPA is also investigating changes to landfill and sewage treatment plant licenses to incorporate sampling for PFAS's in the standard monitoring programs to determine if discharges or inflows of PFAS are occurring at the facilities. Landfills and sewerage treatment works are potential sources as they accumulate PFAS sources from household, commercial and industrial wastes and discharges.
10. The EPA and Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have developed a sampling program plan to characterise potential PFAS sources and movements in the ACT and ensure the ACT meets the requirements of the NEMP. The sampling plan will involve existing water monitoring sites as well as ACT landfill, fuel storage and sewage treatment plant sites as these are potential sources of PFAS from household, commercial and industrial activities. The detailed sampling program is expected to begin by November 2018.

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Issues

11. The ACT Government is unable to progress assessment or remediation at Commonwealth sites because the Commonwealth is not bound by ACT legislation.
12. PFAS contamination was detected in the soil at the former Belconnen site and Charnwood site during the first phase of an assessment process for redevelopment.
13. The Belconnen site is a Government site currently not in use and is awaiting potential redevelopment. Further assessment, in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy 2017, will determine the level of management or remediation required before redevelopment occurs. There is groundwater extraction near the Belconnen site which used for car washing. This water is not used for drinking supply or agricultural production. Thus the exposure pathways to humans from potential PFAS contamination of groundwater at this site is a negligible risk.
14. At the Charnwood site the infrastructure has been removed and validated with the site being found suitable for community including childcare. The building owners have prepared an OEMP which was endorsed by the EPA on 15 March 2018. Prior to occupancy of the site the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed.

Financial Implications

15. ESA to provide information

ConsultationCross Directorate

16. ESA XXX and Daniel Walters, Senior Manager Environment Protection Policy, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have been consulted in the preparation of this brief

External

- 17.

Benefits/Sensitivities

- 18.

Media Implications

- 19.

Signatory Name:

Phone:

Action Officer:

Phone:

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Moroney, Rebecca (Health)

From: Moroney, Rebecca (Health) on behalf of Barr, Conrad (Health)
Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 3:39 PM
To: Pengilley, Andrew (Health)
Subject: FW: Ministerial Brief - PFAS including site list [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: Ministerial Brief - PFAS including site list.docx

Rebecca Moroney | Personal Assistant to Executive Director

Phone: 02 6205 4402 | Email: Rebecca.L.Moroney@act.gov.au

Health Protection Service | Population Health Protection and Prevention | ACT Health | ACT Government

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | health.act.gov.au/hps

From: Clapham, David

Sent: Thursday, 14 June 2018 4:30 PM

To: Chester, Heath <Heath.Chester@act.gov.au>; Sargent, Narelle <Narelle.Sargent@act.gov.au>

Cc: Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>; Engele, Sam <Sam.Engele@act.gov.au>

Subject: Ministerial Brief - PFAS including site list [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED, DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Dear Heath

Thanks for the opportunity to review this. Following our discussion I had a request from my DDG to include a line advising on PFAS in JBT – I have placed a para in the background section. Let me know of any issues. It may be worth copying the Chief Minister into this brief.

Thanks

David

David Clapham | Manager - Intergovernmental Relations | Policy & Cabinet Division

☎ 02 6205 7261 | **Chief Minister, Treasury & Economic Development Directorate** | ACT Government

Level 4, Canberra Nara Centre | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.act.gov.au





MINISTERIAL BRIEF

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Minister for Regulatory Services Tracking No.: Click here to enter text.

Date: 13 May 2018

CC: Minister for Planning and Land Management

From: Alison Purvis, Chief Operating Officer

Subject: PFAS Contamination in the ACT

Critical Date: 22 June 2018

Critical Reason: Click here to enter text.

Purpose

To provide an update on PFAS issues in the ACT.

Recommendations

That you:

1. Note the information contained in this brief.

Noted / Please Discuss

MLA /...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

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Background

1. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a diverse group of compounds resistant to heat, water, and oil. For decades, they have been used in aviation fire-fighting foams (AFFF) as well as being used in a range of industrial/manufacturing processes. The persistent nature of PFAS means it can bio-accumulate in organisms high up in the food chain (ie humans) which represents a potential long term issue.
2. PFAS containing AFFF are no longer used in the ACT by ACT firefighting agencies. The phasing out of AFFF concentrate by ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) commenced in September 2004 and it was completely withdrawn from service in April 2005 and replaced with fluorine-free foam concentrate. ACTF&R still carry nine (9) litre AFFF fire extinguishers on fire fighting vehicles, with these currently being replaced with fluorine-free alternatives.
3. Governments in Australia now work to a framework for PFAS management in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS Contamination Intergovernmental Agreement (February 2018) and the PFAS National Environment Management Plan (NEMP), adopted by all jurisdictions March 2018.
4. The NEMP details the concentrations of PFAS that are currently considered to represent human and ecological harm (essentially defines the level of PFAS in soil & water that is considered 'contamination'). The NEMP also details methods for site assessments, sampling protocols and analytical determinations.
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| Majura Firing range | Malcolm Vale Rd, Pialligo, ACT | Potential |
| Australian Federal Police Majura | 1 Tambreet St, Majura, ACT | Potential |

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| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------|
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| ACT Government | | |
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~~10.11.~~ For your information, CMTEDD is separately briefing the Chief Minister on issues with PFAS in Jervis bay Territory (JBT). ACT Health is currently working with NSW EPA to develop community health advice relating to the consumption of marine life in JBT as a result of Defence's ongoing PFAS investigation in JBT. A copy of this briefing will be provided to you when complete.

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Issues

~~11.12.~~ The ACT Government is unable to progress assessment or remediation at Commonwealth sites because the Commonwealth is not bound by ACT legislation.

~~12.13.~~ PFAS contamination was detected in the soil at the former Belconnen site and Charnwood site during the first phase of an assessment process for redevelopment.

~~13.14.~~ The Belconnen site is a Government site currently not in use and is awaiting potential redevelopment. Further assessment, in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy 2017, will determine the level of management or remediation required before redevelopment occurs. There is groundwater extraction near the Belconnen site which used for car washing. This water is not used for drinking supply or agricultural production. Thus the exposure pathways to humans from potential PFAS contamination of groundwater at this site is a negligible risk.

~~15.~~ At the Charnwood site the infrastructure has been removed and validated with the site being found suitable for community including childcare. The building owners have prepared an OEMP which was endorsed by the EPA on 15 March 2018. Prior to occupancy of the site the lease must be varied to include the approved OEMP and the EPA receive endorsement from a suitably qualified environmental consultant confirming that the mitigation measures required by the OEMP have been successfully installed.

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~~14.~~

Financial Implications

~~15.16.~~ ESA to provide information

Consultation

Cross Directorate

~~16.17.~~ ESA XXX and Daniel Walters, Senior Manager Environment Protection Policy, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate have been consulted in the preparation of this brief

External

~~17.18.~~

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Benefits/Sensitivities

18-19.

Media Implications

19-20.

Signatory Name:

Phone:

Action Officer:

Phone:

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