

# Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Date: Thursday 7 November 2019

Location: Katherine Government Centre, Level 1 Conference Room

Item	Who	Paper
1. Welcome, opening remarks and apologies “I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on traditional lands and pay my respect to elders both past and present and future.”	Chair	N
2. Minutes from April 4 Meeting	Chair	Y; Attachment A
3. Update on Action Items	Chair	Y; Attachment B
4. Power and Water Corporation	Chris Horton	N
5. RAAF Base Tindal	Timothy Ferrell	N
6. Information and messaging for Community Members	All	N
7. General Business	Chair	N
8. Wrap up and meeting close	Chair	N

# Attachment A

## Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group Draft Meeting Minutes

Time Date	5:30pm - 7pm 4 April 2019	Location	Katherine Government Centre, Lvl 1 Conference Room
Attending Members and Proxies	Errol Lawson (Co-Chair) Nathanael Knapp (A/Chair) Chris Horton Petrena Ariston Kevin Grey Tim Ferrell Meg Geritz Robert Jennings	Community Department of the Chief Minister Power Water Corporation Community Community RAAF Tindal Community Community	
Apologies	Jake Quinlivan Fay Miller	Department of the Chief Minister Community	
No response to invitation	Natalie Ellis Sue Jones	Community Community	
Additional Attendees	Biju Mani Allan Domaschenz	Community Community	
Secretariat	Darcy Lye	Department of the Chief Minister	

\* Proxies are identified in *Italics*

### 1. Welcome, opening remarks and apologies

Outcome: Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

### 2. Meeting Summary from 15 January

Outcome: Meeting Summary accepted by the KPCCG from the last meeting on 15 January 2019.

### 3. Expressions of Interest Received

Expressions of Interest received from Allan Domaschenz and Biju Mani accepted and endorsed by members.

Outcome: Members discussed expressions of interest and endorsed membership for IASC approval.

### 3\*. Community Co-Chair (Omitted from agenda)

As per revised Terms of Reference, a call for nominations for community Co-Chair was made.

- Meg Geritz nominated Errol Lawson

- Errol Lawson noted that he is unsure of long term residence in Katherine but welcomed the opportunity
- Members endorsed Errol's nomination unanimously.

Outcome: Errol Lawson endorsed for appointment as Community Co-Chair on the KPCCG.

#### 4. Update on Action Items

Committee Members discussed outstanding actions and agreed on current status.

Outcome: Members discussed the action register and noted the updates.

#### 5. Power and Water Corporation

PWC provided an update:

- No recordable PFAS in water supply
- Water treatment plant is on track to be ready in December 2019.
- PWC continue to provide information pamphlets to businesses and residents regarding water quality and usage.

Members questioned possible impacts of poor wet season on aquifer levels and PFAS movement.

Actions:

1. KPCCG members request proof of purchase from PWC regarding the purchase and order of water treatment plants. Members agreed that this evidence would provide re-assurance to the community that the treatment plants had been ordered and would dispel a number of myths and rumours being perpetuated through local media and social medial platforms.

Responsibility: PWC

2. KPCCG members request information regarding the status of water supply for the Katherine Township due to the poor wet season. Has water modelling been undertaken to ascertain whether the dry season flow of the Katherine River will be enough to avoid further water restrictions?

Responsibility: PWC and DENR

3. KPCCG members request information regarding long term water supply during periods or wet seasons with below average rainfall, taking into consideration population growth and the additional water treatment plants being installed in 2019. How will Katherine River water allocation be considered long term to ensure that level 2 water restrictions are not exceeded.

Responsibility: PWC and DENR

## 6. RAAF Base Tindal

RAAF SADFO provided an update to KPCCG members:

Water treatment plant at Fire training area 1 has been operational since mid-February 2019 with the second water treatment plant on track to be operational mid-year 2019.

Site remediation investigations are ongoing for soil. A Site Selection Boards for a long term soil storage area are currently underway. Members discussed possible soil treatment process and limitations in regards to the technology and research currently available.

The PFAS Water Treatment regeneration plant is in the process of being installed.

Dept. of Defence are currently planning a Community Event and shop front. KPCCG members agreed that that the next KPCCG meeting will align with the Defence Community Event to allow for a presentation to KPCCG members.

### Actions:

1. KPCCG Members request detailed information regarding the RAAF Tindal site remediation plan.

Responsibility: Dept. of Defence / RAAF

2. Dept. of Defence to advise on date for community event so that KPCCG can align meetings and request a separate meeting with Dept. of Defence representatives.

Responsibility: Dept. of Defence / RAAF

3. KPCCG members request data regarding the amounts of PFAS either detected or removed from the treatment plant currently operating on base. Members are keen to understand whether the desired results are being achieved and/or if there are any indications that dilution is occurring. Members acknowledge that it may be too early for this data to be provided but would appreciate any information able to be offered.

Responsibility: Dept. of Defence / RAAF

4. KPCCG members request information regarding the ongoing maintenance and monitoring plan that has been developed.

Responsibility: Dept. of Defence

## 1. Information and Messaging for community members

KPCCG members discussed and agreed on the following content to be developed for public distribution in print and social media:

- Contain purpose statement, role and reference to Terms of Reference of the KPCCG
- Provide links to more information such as KTC water resources page and PFAS.gov webpage
- Introduce current KPCCG members as contact points in the community
- Offer KPCCG generic email as a contact point for questions or comments relevant to the KPCCG
- Reference the development of KPI's by KPCCG members

KPCCG members anticipated community questions around members involved in a professional capacity as well as a personal one.

- Actions:
1. Ensure KPCCG revised Terms of Reference is available on council website.  
Responsibility: Secretariat
  2. Draft KPCCG public information notice to be developed and distributed to members prior to distribution by Katherine Town Council  
Responsibility: Secretariat
  3. PWC to continue to disseminate pamphlets and other information around water PFAS levels and update group on the content being spread.  
Responsibility: PWC

## 2. General Business

30 April 2019 is believed to be the cut-off date for blood testing. KPCCG Members discussed the value and purpose of the ongoing ANU study. KPCCG members agreed that the ANU study and blood testing would be highly valuable in years to come but required further information to understand if this was to be a longitudinal study and/or whether further blood testing would be offered.

KPCCG members discussed the perception of visitors to Katherine from Darwin and identified that the Darwin perception is largely negative and incorrect regarding PFAS and Katherine's water quality. KPCCG members agreed that some effort needs to be made to inform Darwin residents that Katherine has the safest and cleanest water in the country.

- Actions:
1. KPCCG members request access to results from the ANU epidemiological study.  
Responsibility: NT DoH to assist with identifying appropriate contact or response to query.
  2. Establish the best contact point to receive consistent updates in regards to blood testing and ANU study.  
Responsibility: NT DoH
  3. Conduct research on the current Epidemiological study being undertaken. Create a brief summary of what has happened, where it is presently, and what they are intending to achieve.  
Responsibility: Secretariat
  4. KPCCG members request that PWC Katherine Water Brochures be distributed throughout Darwin.  
Responsibility: PWC

## 3. Wrap up and meeting close

Outcome: Meeting closed at 7pm

Next Meeting TBA / July 2019

DRAFT

# Attachment B

## Katherine PFAS Community Consultation Group

### Update on Action Items – 4 April 2019

Date	Action	Responsibility	Status	Comments
4.04.19	<p>KPCCG members request proof of purchase from PWC regarding the purchase and order of water treatment plants. Members agreed that this evidence would provide re-assurance to the community that the treatment plants had been ordered and would dispel a number of myths and rumors being perpetuated through local media and social media platforms.</p>	PWC	Complete	<p>Power and Water has contracted ECT2 to undertake the early works package for the treatment plant (demolition, earthworks and other preliminary works). Works commenced on the 23rd September and are underway.</p> <p><a href="https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6001626/we-have-a-plan-expert-says-not-to-worry-about-bore-water-flows/">https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6001626/we-have-a-plan-expert-says-not-to-worry-about-bore-water-flows/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6328327/live-never-seen-the-river-so-low-but-katherine-will-pull-through/">https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6328327/live-never-seen-the-river-so-low-but-katherine-will-pull-through/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6361909/river-will-keep-flowing-until-next-year-even-if-we-see-no-more-rain/">https://www.katherinetimes.com.au/story/6361909/river-will-keep-flowing-until-next-year-even-if-we-see-no-more-rain/</a></p>
4.04.19	<p>KPCCG members request information regarding the status of water supply for the Katherine Township due to the poor wet season. Has water modelling been undertaken to ascertain whether the dry season flow of the Katherine River will be enough to avoid further water restrictions?</p>	PWC, DENR	Complete	
4.04.19	<p>KPCCG members request information regarding long term water supply during periods or wet seasons with below average rainfall, taking into consideration population growth and the additional water treatment plants</p>	PWC, DENR	In Progress	

	being installed in 2019. How will Katherine River water allocation be considered long term to ensure that level 2 water restrictions are not exceeded.				
4.04.19	KPCCG Members request detailed information regarding the RAAF Tindal site remediation plan.	Dept. of Defence / RAAF	Complete	PFAS Area Management Plan released in July and supplied to members	
4.04.19	Dept. of Defence to advise on date for community event so that KPCCG can align meetings and request a separate meeting with Dept. of Defence representatives.	Dept. of Defence / RAAF	Complete		
4.04.19	KPCCG members request data regarding the amounts of PFAS either detected or removed from the treatment plant currently operating on base. Members are keen to understand whether the desired results are being achieved and/or if there are any indications that dilution is occurring. Members acknowledge that it may be too early for this data to be provided but would appreciate any information able to be offered.	Dept. of Defence / RAAF	Ongoing	PFAS Area Management Plan released in July and supplied to members	
4.04.19	KPCCG members request information regarding the ongoing maintenance and monitoring plan that has been developed.	Dept. of Defence	Complete	PFAS Area Management Plan released in July and supplied to members	
4.04.19	Ensure KPCCG revised Terms of Reference is available on council website.	Secretariat	Complete		
4.04.19	Draft KPCCG public information notice to be developed and distributed to members prior to distribution by Katherine Town Council	Secretariat	Complete		
4.04.19	PWC to continue to disseminate pamphlets and other information around water PFAS levels and update group on the content being spread.	PWC	Ongoing	DCM sent a copy of PWC pamphlet distributed to local businesses on the 30/4/19	
4.04.19	KPCCG members request access to results from the ANU epidemiological study.	NT DoH to assist with identifying appropriate contact or response to query.	In Progress	The IASC anticipate an update on the study and focus groups at the next meeting on October 31.	
4.04.19	Establish the best contact point to receive consistent updates in regards to blood testing and ANU study.	NT DoH	Complete	The best point of contact for Blood Testing and ANU study	



				updates would be Director of the PFAS Taskforce
4.04.19	Conduct research on the current Epidemiological study being undertaken. Create a brief summary of what has happened, where it is presently, and what they are intending to achieve.	Secretariat	Complete	
4.04.19	KPCCG members request that PWC Katherine Water Brochures be distributed throughout Darwin.	PWC	Complete	
4.04.19	Approve the EOI applications from Mr Bijju Mani and Mr Allan Domaschenz to join the KPCCG	IASC	Complete	
15.01.19	Inquiry into the management of PFAS contamination in around Defence bases to be sent to all group members with latest minutes	Secretariat	Completed	
15.01.19	Members seeking an update on the status of Department of Defence Community Consultation activities. Are any future community consultation or information sessions scheduled; will Department of Defence be evaluating consultation activities undertaken to date?	RAAF Tindal	Completed	
15.01.19	RAAF to find out details on who is completing remediation efforts for the group	RAAF Tindal	Completed	
15.01.19	Take ToR to IASC for approval post aforementioned amendments.	Secretariat	Completed	

15.01.19	Develop KPI's and Measures of Success for the group going forward that align with goals set out in ToR as well as the recommendations within the Senate Sub Committee inquiry. To be discussed at next meeting	Secretariat and members	In Progress	
18.09.18	7.1 Draft newspaper ad to be distributed by KTC to KPCCG members for review and feedback.	KTC	Complete	
19.6.18	6.2 Provide electronic link to the Katherine Cancer Incidence Analysis Report	DoH	Complete	<a href="https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/528304/pfas_katherine_cancer_incidence_analysis_15_June_2018.pdf">https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/528304/pfas_katherine_cancer_incidence_analysis_15_June_2018.pdf</a>
1.5.18	9.1 Recommend second working group including Rob Jennings, Meg Geritz.	KPCCG Chair/Secretariat	Complete	Working group convened on 30 May 2018 – further discussion to be had at KPCCG meeting scheduled for 19 June 2018.
6.2.18	4.1 Request a timeframe for availability of information from NT PFASIASC 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 20 November 2018 - NT EPA has advised that from the 163 sites, as a first step 74 sites require either a limited preliminary site investigation or a detailed preliminary site investigation to determine whether detailed site investigations will be required for the sites should PFAS contamination be identified.

