



MEDIA RELEASE

May 14th

Williamstown residents 'promised' contamination compensation by all sides of politics

Residents spending their 1384th day living inside a contaminated Red Zone say political promises to ensure compensation for having their homes and properties polluted must be delivered on now.

Over 150 residents from the Williamstown area this week heard from candidates for the Federal election as to how they would respond to a contamination crisis caused by toxic firefighting foam containing PFAS leaking off the Williamstown Airforce base.

Labor, Greens, United Australia and One Nation all undertook at the meeting to provide compensation at the community organised forum.

“The local Liberal candidate had a far more pressing issue come up on a Monday night apparently,” said Williamstown resident Rhianna Gorfine. “But given his colleague Liberal MP Andrew Laming led a bi-partisan Federal parliamentary inquiry that called for immediate compensation for the community, all sides of politics now agree on one thing.

“To further delay the compensation process then, to allow the Defence department to spend over \$25,000 a day on legal fees fighting the community in court, to ignore the physical and mental damage caused to hundreds of families exposed to toxic PFAS chemicals now sits squarely on the shoulders of all political parties.

“No more denials, no more excuses, no more inquiries and no more promises – the time has come for all political parties to end this travesty as soon a newly elected Federal Parliament sits,” she said.

Coalition Against PFAS president and local resident Lindsay Clout said any newly elected Government could not hide behind spin around ‘complexity or costings’.

“Communities here, in Williamstown, in Oakey and elsewhere have fought for four long years to bring PFAS contamination to national attention. An Australia-wide response will be required into the future but that does not and should not entail leaving people to rot now, “ he said



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“We know the compensation costings and proposals for Williamstown and elsewhere were taken to Cabinet and knocked back by a group including then Treasurer Scott Morrison. The data is all there and the time has come for all parties to ensure compensation is delivered on so that residents can rebuild their lives.”

Ends

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