

s 9(2)(a)

Radio New Zealand News

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email dated 8 August 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):

“...all the weekly AOG PFAS situation updates for the months of June, July and to the present in August”.

This request was received by the New Zealand Defence Force on 8 August 2018, and transferred to the Ministry for the Environment under section 14 of the Official Information Act on 9 August 2018.

Part of the information you have requested is enclosed. The attached table lists the documents falling within the scope of your request and notes any OIA provisions that have been applied. This is primarily to withhold the contact details of staff members, as well as maintain legal professional privilege and effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank discussion.

Under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Neil Hurley
Director/ Chief Information Officer
Organisational Performance and Operations

List of documents

Document no.	Document date	Content	Decisions	OIA sections applied
1	1 June 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(h) S9(2)(a)
2	8 June 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
3	15 June 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
4	22 June 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
5	29 June 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a) S6(c)
6	6 July 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
7	13 July 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
8	20 July 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
9	27 July 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)
10	3 August 2018	Weekly PFAS Situation Update	Partial release	S9(2)(a)

To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04646
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	01.06.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the weekly PFAS update for the week ending 1 June 2018.

Situation update

2. No new calls have been received to the 0800 number.
3. Stage three sampling at Ohakea and Woodbourne was completed last Thursday 24 May, and the Operations Centre has wound down as a result. Collected samples are being analysed by the laboratories, with results expected in 4-6 weeks.

4.



S9(2)(h)

National work stream update

5. A number of documents will be considered at the Governance Group meeting on 5 June, including updates to the:
 - Terms of Reference and Committee Charter for the Governance Group
 - National PFAS Prioritisation List and
 - Proposed Ohakea Community Water Scheme.

Ministerial requests

6. Information for responding to the ministerial request on alternative foam being used at Air Base Ohakea is being collated.

Media and communications

7. A lot of media attention was generated throughout the week by the publication of the May 2018 Cabinet Paper on the PFAS All of Government programme; and minutes of a Horizons Regional Council meeting about how Defence and central government were engaging with the council.
8. Stories also ran on Radio New Zealand and Stuff about the broadening of PFAS investigations beyond defence bases and airports.

OIA requests

9. Minister Parker's response to Andy Russell from the Ohakea Water Committee was published on the Ministry's website, with Mr Russell's consent.

Next steps

10. The Director of Public Health, along with representatives from the All of Government Programme and the New Zealand Defence Force, is attending a community meeting in Ohakea on 7 June. Due to the production order on the New Zealand Defence Force, messaging is being developed for questions that may arise during the meeting.


Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

- a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature


 Vicki Connor, on behalf of Claire Richardson
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary
Organisational Performance and Operations

1/8/2018
Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
**Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities**

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Date

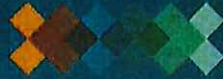
Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary Organisational Performance and Operations	Claire Richardson	022 493 0076	✓

S9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04658
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	08.06.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the weekly PFAS update for the week ending 8 June 2018.

Situation update

2. The Operations Centre remains closed, awaiting analysis of submitted samples.
3. The New Zealand Defence Force, working with the Crown Law Office has provided the information required by the production order to Horizons District Council.
4. The Director of Public Health along with members of the All of Government Programme and the New Zealand Defence Force attended a community meeting in Ohakea on 7 June. The meeting was very constructive, with attendees from Manawātū District and Horizons Regional Councils present.

National work stream update

5. Updated terms of reference and governance charter went through the Governance Group, general assent was given with some feedback to be incorporated.
6. Work is continuing on the national PFAS prioritisation list, with three Councils yet to respond to the request for information. Fire and Emergency New Zealand are continuing with the project to assess their sites.
7. Concerns have been raised by some Councils regarding how the information that has been provided to create the PFAS national prioritisation list will be used, the expected level of activity and how PFAS compares with other known contaminants. Ongoing conversations are taking place across the All of Government Working Group, and the Technical Advisory Groups.

Meetings

8. Officials had the opportunity to make a presentation to the LGNZ Rural and Provincial Sector Group meeting on Friday 8 June about the national PFAS programme. The presentation was very well received by a large audience of mayors and Chief Executives with highly positive comments about the All of Government programme. Local government is now formally engaged with the programme through its governance and working group arrangements.

Ministerial requests

9. Information to respond to the ministerial request by the Rangitikei Mayor has been provided to Minister Parker's office.

Media and communications

10. Media attention continued throughout the week on the publication of the May 2018 Cabinet Paper on the PFAS All of Government programme; and minutes of a Horizons Regional Council meeting about how government were engaging with the council.
11. Articles also ran regarding about the broadening of PFAS investigations beyond defence bases and airports and the proposed Ohakea Water Scheme.

OIA requests

12. No new Official Information Act requests have been received.

Next steps

13. A draft policy document, setting out a framework for decision making on funding, investigation and response will be submitted to the working group next week. This will be followed by policy documents and guidance, being drafted, that will address concerns raised by council.

Recommendations

-
1. We recommend that you:
 - a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Signature

Claire Richardson
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary
Organisational Performance and Operations

8 / 2 / 18
Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
**Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities**

Date

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Date

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary Organisational Performance and Operations	Claire Richardson	022 493 0076	✓

S9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04678
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	15.06.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the weekly PFAS update for the week ending 15 June 2018.

Situation update

1. The New Zealand Defence Force received an abatement notice from Horizons Regional Council, in respect of Air Force Base Ohakea. In summary, this requires the New Zealand Defence Force to cease discharging PFOS and PFOA into the stormwater system, and onto or into land. The scope of the notice is being clarified.
2. Positive feedback has been received following the Ohakea Community Meeting on 7 June.

National work stream update

3. The All of Government programme is actively engaging with stakeholders to develop fit for purpose policy and guidance.

Ministerial requests

4. No new ministerial requests have been received.

Media and communications

5. Media attention in the past week was focussed on three issues around Ohakea:
 - a. Horizons' media release about the abatement notice served on New Zealand Defence Force, and Defence's statement in response.

- b. Defence's response to queries about the use of firefighting foam at Ohakea, and Defence's later clarification of its response.
- c. Last week's community meeting. The presentation that Dr Caroline McElroy delivered around health issues, particularly blood testing, was posted on the Ministry's website.

OIA requests

6. No new Official Information Act requests have been received.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

- a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature

Claire Richardson
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary
Organisational Performance and Operations

15/6/18
 Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Date




Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary Organisational Performance and Operations	Claire Richardson	022 493 0076	✓

S9(2)(a)

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To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04696
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	22.06.2018	Response needed by:	06.07.2018
MfE Priority:	Urgent	Action Sought:	Decision

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the weekly PFAS update for the week ending 22 June 2018.

Situation update

2. Horizons Regional Council has requested additional information from the New Zealand Defence Force relating to the abatement notice they served. The Crown Law Office is working with the New Zealand Defence Force, and Horizons Regional Council to address this.
3. The results of third stage testing in Ohakea and Woodbourne are expected next week. The communication approach will be the same as the previous release of results, as this worked well for communities and agencies.

National work stream update

4. The Environmental Protection Authority has provided a technical paper on the disposal of water containing low amounts of PFAS to waste water treatment plants, which was discussed at the working group. The PFAS programme will now undertake targeted engagement with Councils on this topic.

Meetings

5. Claire Richardson, Executive Sponsor for the PFAS programme, is meeting with Auckland Council on 22 June to discuss the national programme.

Ministerial requests

6. No new Ministerial requests have been received by the All of Government programme.

Media and communications

7. Media coverage over the past week was focussed on the Abatement Notice served on the New Zealand Defence Force by Horizons Council. Radio New Zealand also ran stories about several American states tightening up guideline drinking water values for PFOS and PFOA.

OIA requests

8. No new Official Information Act requests have been received by the All of Government programme.

Next steps

9. At the Ministry for the Environment officials weekly meeting on 18 June you discussed funding for the detailed design study for the proposed Ohakea Water Scheme (refer Ministerial Briefing B-04654). This funding (of up to \$50,000) can be met as an ex gratia payment from the appropriation for the PFAS work. It requires your approval, as it is outside of the delegation of the Chief Executive.
10. The European Food Safety Authority is due shortly to provide an updated position on the toxicity of perfluorinated chemicals, such as PFAS. Early indications is that this will be much more stringent than their previous position. The Ministry for Primary Industries will provide advice when the updated position is available.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

- a. Note the contents of this briefing

Minister for the Environment

- b. Agree to fund (up to \$50,000) a detailed design study for the proposed Ohakea Water Scheme, from the appropriation for PFAS work.

Yes/No

Signature



Nigel Shatford, on behalf of, Claire Richardson
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary
Organisational Performance and Operations

Date 22/06/18

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport




Date

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary Organisational Performance and Operations	Claire Richardson	022 493 0076	✓

S9(2)(a)



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04713
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	29.06.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the weekly PFAS update for the week ending 29 June 2018.

Situation update

2. The results for the third round of testing (Stage C) at Ohakea and Woodbourne are now available. The results reflect no significant change in the overall situation. A more detailed summary of the results has been provided to Minister Parker's office.
3. The New Zealand Defence Force is now contacting affected landowners in Ohakea and Woodbourne to discuss their results. This is expected to continue into next week.
4. The communication plan will follow the plan established for the release of the previous round's results, as this worked well.
5. A media release will be posted on the Ministry for the Environment website regarding the results of the third round of testing, once the affected landowners have been contacted regarding their results. This is currently indicated to be early next week.

National work stream update

6. The All of Government programme is engaging with Regional Councils regarding a technical paper written by the Environmental Protection Authority on the disposal of wash water, with very low levels of PFOS, to the trade-waste stream of waste water treatment plants. This is necessary to enable the cleaning of firefighting equipment that previously contained PFOS. The primary focus is on environmental effects rather than human health.

Meetings

7. The All of Government programme is continuing to meet with Council staff around the country, including Canterbury and Taranaki. A meeting was held this week with the NZ Airports Association and Wellington Airport.
8. Representatives from the Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand Defence Force, and Ministry for Primary Industries took part in the newly formed All of Auckland PFAS Working Group hosted by Auckland Council. Positive discussions took place, with the focus for the working group being on information sharing and understanding.
9. Representatives from the All of Government programme presented on PFAS to central government and regional councils at the Chief Executives' Environment & Economic Forum. This was well received.

Ministerial requests

10. No new Ministerial requests have been received by the All of Government programme.

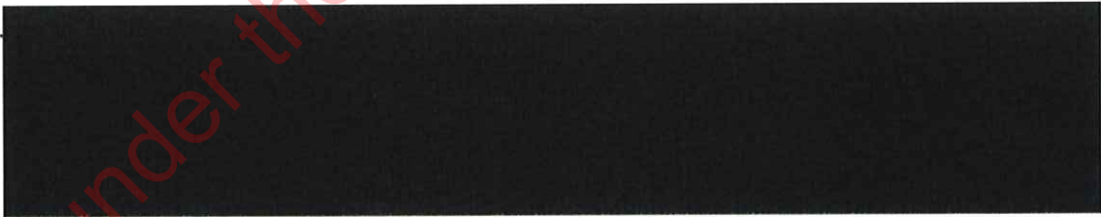
Media and communications

11. Several stories were carried over the past week about overseas jurisdictions and differing PFAS guideline values. Suggested values for the USA have been proposed that are significantly tighter and more conservative than those applied here. The All of Government programme has prepared information around why New Zealand and Australia adopted interim guideline values, what they are based on, and how this compares.
12. There is likely to be some media interest in the coming week around the release of the third round test results for Ohakea and Woodbourne.

OIA requests

13. No new OIA requests have been received by the All of Government programme.

14.



S6(c)

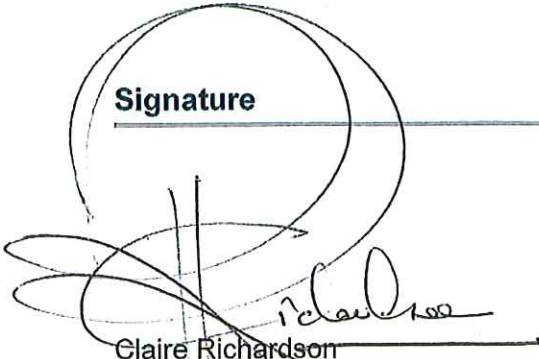
Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature



Claire Richardson
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary
Organisational Performance and Operations

27/6/18
Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Date

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		
Chief Operating Officer/Deputy Secretary Organisational Performance and Operations	Claire Richardson	022 493 0076	✓

S9(2)(a)



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04732
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	1
Date Submitted:	06.07.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the PFAS update for the week ending 6 July 2018.

Situation update

2. Individual results of the third round of testing (Stage C) at Ohakea and Woodbourne have been delivered to affected landowners. Media releases and summary reports for the results were published on the Ministry's website on Wednesday and sent to interested reporters. Two media queries were received seeking clarification of the figures. A summary of results previously provided to Minister Parker's office has been attached as Appendix One.
3. Taranaki Regional Council has begun consulting with residents and iwi on potential contamination coming from a fire training facility at Oaonui. The flyer provided as part of this consultation is attached as Appendix Two.

Ministerial requests

4. One new Ministerial request has been received by the All of Government programme, requesting general information on PFAS from a local MP.

Media and communications

5. The only media queries received this week related to the figures in the Summary Reports.

6. Minister Parker's letter to Manawatū District Council Mayor Helen Worboys on funding for a detailed design study for a proposed Ohakea water scheme has been shared with the Ohakea community group.

OIA requests

7. No new OIA requests have been received by the All of Government programme.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:
a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature



Vicki Connor
**Director, Communications and Engagement
Organisational Performance and Operations**

6/7/18

Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Date

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		
Director, Communications and Engagement	Vicki Connor	027 222 2943	✓

S9(2)(a)

Appendices

Appendix One – NZDF Stage C test results for Ohakea and Woodbourne

The results of the latest round of testing in Ohakea and Woodbourne are broadly similar to the results from the previous round. As expected, there has been some movement in the groundwater plume in both locales.

Ohakea

Groundwater

- 70 groundwater samples were taken (4 less than previous)
 - PFAS compounds were detected in 32 samples (32 previous)
 - 18 Samples exceeded the interim drinking water guideline (three more). All three of these samples relate to a single bore.
 - All three nearby dwellings use rainwater tanks. The bore *may* have been used to top up the rainwater tanks.
 - Two of the tanks have been previously confirmed to be below the interim drinking guideline.
 - NZDF is testing the third as a priority, and are continuing to provide alternative water supplies as needed.
- Similar results as previous for using tested water for food production
 - No change in MPI advice.
- Of the measured movement in the plume, one bore has shown a significant increase, and is being resampled to validate this result.
 - If this result is validated as being correct it could result in MPI advice being required.

Surface water

- 39 surface water samples were taken (14 more than previous)
- A very similar percentage of samples had PFAS detected (72%)

Soil

- 110 soil samples were taken (compared to 12 previous)
- Only eight soil samples exceeded the relevant human health screening value (compared to four previous)
 - There are no residential dwellings in the vicinity, however.
- 29 samples exceeded the home grown beef and milk consumption screening values. Four samples exceeded the home grown egg consumption screening values.
 - This is a different value to what is acceptable to sell or export, as it becomes 'diluted' with produce from other sources.
 - MPI's advice for those landowners to limit home grown consumption applies.
 - Modelling to correlate the soil results with any MPI advice around groundwater testing could be undertaken when the full landowner reports are available.

Animal Tissue

- Three samples of animal tissue were taken (2 previous)
- PFAS was detected in two of the samples (both sheep) but not at significant quantities to trigger the Food Standards Australia New Zealand trigger value.

- Seven eggs were also taken from a property where MPI has advised moderation of home grown foods is needed. All collected eggs were positive for PFAS.

There was no repeat testing of plant tissue or sediment.

Woodbourne

Groundwater

- 159 samples were taken (168 previous)
- PFAS was detected in 69 samples, a similar percentage to previous
- None of the samples exceeded the interim drinking water guidelines.
- Similar results as previous for using tested water for food production
 - No change in MPI advice.

Surface water

- 30 surface water samples were taken (25 previous)
- Results are very similar to previous testing.

No samples were taken of soil, sediment, or animal or plant tissue.

Appendix Two – Taranaki Regional Council information sheet

July 2018

To Oaonui/Sandy Bay residents

The Taranaki Regional Council is investigating contamination of groundwater at Oaonui arising from historical activities at the Hot Fire Training Facility on Te Tai Road, operated by Wood Group. We believe you have a right to first-hand, reliable information and shouldn't have to rely on speculation or comment that may not be based on all the facts.

Most importantly, there is no known health risk to you or your stock. This flyer explains why.

What is the situation?

- Sampling of groundwater beneath the Hot Fire Training Facility has found contamination above levels deemed safe for human consumption. The contaminants of concern are particular chemicals from within a larger chemical family known as PFAS, which were used as a constituent of specialised firefighting foam.
- The testing has found a contamination 'hot spot' extending 100m from the site.
- Further investigations are being carried out.
- PFAS foam has not been used at the Hot Fire Training Facility since 2016, when an abatement notice was serviced on the operator by the Council after minor surface foaming during rain was noticed in a drain. More recent sampling of the Oaonui Stream has revealed no PFAS contamination.
- The Council is also working closely with the Māui Production Station operator, Shell Taranaki Limited, whose sampling has revealed a degree of PFAS contamination in the Ngapirau Stream, to the south of Oaonui. Further sampling is being carried out.

Is there a risk to residents and/or stock?


- As far as the Council is aware, neither the contaminated groundwater nor the Oaonui or Ngapirau streams are used to supply any water to households or stock. Nor are food supplies harvested from in or near the stream. Accordingly, there is no known threat to human health or stock.

Is more information available?

- The Ministry for the Environment website has information and Q&As on PFAS: www.mfe.govt.nz/more/hazards/hazardous-substances/pfas/about-pfas
- If you have specific questions about the situation at Oaonui, contact Gary Bedford, the Council's Director-Environment Quality. Call 0800 736 222 or email gary.bedford@trc.govt.nz

We will keep you updated on any further developments.



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04748
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	13.07.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the PFAS update for the week ending 13 July 2018.

Meetings

2. As part of ongoing meetings with industry bodies and stakeholders, the All of Government programme will meet with Water New Zealand and the NZ Airports Association in the coming week.

Ministerial requests

3. A ministerial request was received for general information on the Government response to PFAS from firefighting foams. Minister Parker's office has been provided information to respond to this query.

Media and communications

4. Media coverage was sparse over the past week, focussed on historic issues around New Zealand Defence Force's use of chemicals at Woodbourne and Ohakea bases.
5. Manawātū District Council issued a media release about the Ministers support for a detailed design study for a proposed Ohakea water scheme.
6. New Zealand Defence Force issued a release to local media about the testing being undertaken around a 1996 Skyhawk crash site in the Rangitikei district.

OIA requests

7. No new OIA requests have been received by the All of Government Programme.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

- a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature



13.07.18

Neil Hurley
Director/Chief Information Officer
Organisational Performance and Operations

Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Date

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford	[REDACTED]	✓
Director/Chief Information Officer Organisational Performance and Operations	Neil Hurley	021 248 2535	

S9(2)(a)



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04755
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	0
Date Submitted:	20.07.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-Urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the PFAS update for the week ending 20 July 2018.

Situation update

1. The New Zealand Defence Force will be consulting with landowners around the Whenuapai base in the week commencing 23 July, ahead of sampling the following week. The testing programme will target 12 properties in the area.
2. A communications and engagement plan for the testing has been prepared, using the approach that has worked effectively in Ohakea and Woodbourne.

Meetings

3. Members of the All of Government programme met with Environment Canterbury (ECan) and the Christchurch International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in Christchurch on Thursday 19 July. ECan has established a regional stakeholders group, including representatives from the Christchurch City Council, the Lyttleton Port Company Ltd and CIAL to understand and address potential issues in the city.
4. CIAL raised similar issues to the other large airports we have met with, including the difficulty it faces in the appropriate trade waste disposal of the wash water from its fire appliance tank cleaning. This is an issue we are working on with councils and industry bodies to progress with urgency.
5. Constructive meetings were held with Water New Zealand and the NZ Airports Association this week, as signalled in the previous weekly briefing.

Media and communications

6. There was scant media coverage over the past week, with no new issues arising.

Ministerial requests

7. Further information on the approach of the Environmental Protection Authority to non-compliant firefighting foams has been requested by Minister Parker's office, to answer the ministerial request reported in the previous weekly briefing.

OIA requests

8. No new OIA requests have been received by the All of Government Programme.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that you:

a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature



Neil Hurley
Director/Chief Information Officer
Organisational Performance and Operations

20.07.18

Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
**Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
Food Safety, and Rural Communities**

Date

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport




Date

Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford		✓
Director/Chief Information Officer Organisational Performance and Operations	Neil Hurley	021 248 2535	

S9(2)(a)



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04776
			
<u>Security Level</u>	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	1
Date Submitted:	27.07.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the PFAS update for the week ending 27 July 2018.

Situation update

2. The New Zealand Defence Force has begun contacting Whenuapai landowners ahead of sampling. Sampling is planned to be undertaken on the properties of twelve landowners, with a further eight landowners being contacted for access to sample coastal sites.
3. Sampling is weather dependent, and is expected to conclude by 3 August 2018. Aside from ground and surface water, samples will be taken of sediment, fish and other marine biota. Results are expected 6-8 weeks after sampling has concluded.
4. The communications and engagement plan for testing follows the approach that has worked effectively in Ohakea and Woodbourne. A media release has been posted on the Auckland Council, New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry for the Environment websites (attached as the Appendix).

Meetings

5. Members of the All of Government Programme, including the Environmental Protection Authority, met with Wellington Regional and City Councils, and water network operators to discuss the disposal of wastewater containing low levels of PFAS through treatment plants. The meeting included discussions of potential sampling regimes to better understand the background levels of PFAS in New Zealand, as well as a possible way to advance the disposal issue.

Ministerial requests

- 6. A second Ministerial from Task Protection Services has been received and a combined response is being drafted. Advice has been sought from the Environmental Protection Authority to respond to the request.

Media and communications

- 7. Radio New Zealand has reported on submissions made to the Australian parliamentary committee inquiry into the Commonwealth Government's management of PFAS contamination in and around Australian Defence bases.

OIA requests

- 8. No new OIA requests have been received by the All of Government Programme.

Recommendations

-
- 1. We recommend that you:

- a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature



Neil Hurley
Director/Chief Information Officer
Organisational Performance and Operations

27.07.18

Date

Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

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Minister of Health

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Minister of Transport

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Ministry for the Environment contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal author	Reed Inwood		
Programme Manager	Nigel Shatford	██████████	✓
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S9(2)(a)

Appendix

Defence testing near Whenuapai Air Base

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is contacting some landowners living near Whenuapai Air Base seeking permission to test ground and surface water on their properties for the presence of PFAS. This follows the detection of PFAS at Whenuapai Air Base.

Drinking water at the base, the adjacent school, the village centre on Brigham Creek Road and the recently developed Special Housing Area comes from the town supply and is not affected.

NZDF has been working to determine how and where the ground water flows to from Whenuapai Air Base, and to support the local community. Auckland Council has been consulted and has been assisting NZDF with its preliminary investigation with regional and locally specific information and knowledge.

Preliminary advice from NZDF's consultants is that while some people may be using ground water at properties close to Whenuapai Air Base, the water is sourced from a bore at a depth of between 200-300 metres and below a thick layer of fine sediment that is expected to exclude PFAS. Testing will clarify that.

Tests will also be carried out on marine life in the harbour nearby to better understand the presence of PFAS in the area.

Health advice remains that there is no acute health risk from exposure to PFAS compounds. There is currently no consistent evidence that environmental exposures to PFOS and PFOA causes adverse human health effects.



To Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment and To Hon Eugenie Sage, Associate Minister for the Environment To Hon David Clark, Minister of Health To Hon Ron Mark, Minister of Defence To Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture, Biosecurity, Food Safety, and Rural Communities To Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport			Tracking #: 2018-B-04799
Security Level	Sensitive	Number of Attachments	N/A
Date Submitted:	03.08.2018	Response needed by:	N/A
MfE Priority:	Non-urgent	Action Sought:	Noting

Weekly PFAS Situation Update

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the PFAS update for the week ending 3 August 2018.

Situation update

2. The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) sampling programme is underway around Base Whenuapai and will continue for another week to accommodate tidal changes and landowner requests for sampling dates. Results are expected 6-8 weeks after sampling has concluded.

3.



S9(2)(a)

4. The Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) has received the results of analysis of mussels, eels and watercress sampling collected at a number of points around the Taranaki coastline. TRC advises there is no trace of marine receiving environment contamination by PFAS compounds in the samples tested. Elevated levels of PFOS have been detected however in eels from two streams at Oaonui: in the vicinity of the Wood Group Ltd fire training facility and the Maui on-shore production station.

5. MPI advises that signage should be put in place recommending against taking eels from the Oaonui Stream and is coordinating this with TRC and the district health board.
6. TRC issued an abatement notice in November 2016 to Wood Group Ltd, in response to observing some foaming in the Oaonui Stream from the fire training facility during an inspection. The wastewater discharge permit for the facility has since expired and the council has declined to issue a new one while investigations are ongoing.
7. The council intends to make a public statement about the test results in the week commencing Monday 6 August, following engagement with local hapu at Oaonui and having received a final report from Wood Group.

National work stream update

8. The PFAS Programme has developed draft guidance for the sampling and analysis of PFAS, which is currently undergoing regional consultation. This guidance will ensure that, where adopted, the sampling processes undertaken in accordance with these protocols are consistent, robust and defensible.

Meetings

5. On Friday 27 July 2018 the Minister of Defence met with District Councils' Mayors and the Chief Executive of Horizons Regional Council in the Manawatu regarding a variety of regional topics, including PFAS.

Media response

6. Radio New Zealand has reported on the sampling underway around Base Whenuapai in Auckland.

OIA requests

7. No new OIA requests have been received by the All of Government Programme.

Recommendations

-
1. We recommend that you:

- a. **Note** the contents of this briefing

Yes/No

Signature



Neil Hurley
Director/Chief Information Officer
Organisational Performance and Operations

03.08.18
Date



Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

4/8/8
Date

Hon Eugenie Sage
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

Hon David Clark
Minister of Health

Date

Hon Ron Mark
Minister of Defence

Date

Hon Damien O'Connor
**Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity,
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Date

Hon Phil Twyford
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