



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## HUNTER WATER PUBLISHES PFOS PFOA TEST RESULTS FOR LOCAL DAMS

Hunter Water has released the results of tests confirming that Grahamstown Dam is not contaminated by fire-fighting foam chemicals that have moved off site from the RAAF's airbase at Williamstown.

Hunter Water said PFOS testing outside the contamination area was done to reassure the community that drinking water continues to be safe.

Grahamstown Dam is outside the investigation area determined by the NSW EPA. The Dam is effectively upstream of the RAAF base meaning any movement of PFOS/ PFOA chemicals is in a direction away from the Dam. Hunter Water regularly inspects its catchment area and there are no known sources of PFOS/PFOA in the Grahamstown Dam catchment.

Hunter Water Interim CEO Jeremy Bath said the results confirming the safety of water sourced from Grahamstown Dam were entirely expected.

"The RAAF's contamination of parts of the Tomago Sandbeds has raised concerns within the community about the safety of water sourced from Grahamstown Dam.

"There has never been any concern within Hunter Water that PFOS or PFOA could effectively travel uphill to Grahamstown Dam. However as a means of ensuring the public continues to have confidence that town water is safe to drink, Hunter Water now tests water drawn from all water sources, including Grahamstown Dam, for fire-fighting foam contaminants.

"Hunter Water takes a multi-barrier approach to managing drinking water quality. This includes implementing management measures to deal with any potential contaminants found within the catchments. Hunter Water invests in the order of \$1.6 million annually testing our water to ensure it complies with the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

"Hunter Water has a robust testing process that ensures our water is safe to drink. We are proud of our exemplary track record and would never take any position that risked public safety," he said.

Hunter New England Health's Environmental Health Manager Philippe Porigneaux said that NSW Health works closely with Hunter Water when it comes to maintaining the quality and safety of drinking water.

"NSW Health is supportive of the rigorous testing regime Hunter Water has in place to ensure the safety and quality of local drinking water. As the regulator of water quality I can reassure the community that town water is safe to drink.

"Furthermore, we support Hunter Water's decision to embargo its three pump stations inside the Williamstown investigation area," he said.

PFOS PFOA test results are at [www.hunterwater.com.au/waterquality](http://www.hunterwater.com.au/waterquality). The actual report is in the Helpful Information table half way down the page and is titled 'Monthly Drinking Water Quality Summary'.

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