



# Chief Scientist & Engineer

OUT17/13484

Mr Barry Buffier  
Chair & Chief Executive Officer  
Environment Protection Authority  
PO Box A290  
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1232

Dear Mr Buffier

## Expert Panel review of Williamstown advisories

I am writing to provide you with the latest advice from the Williamstown Contamination Expert Panel in regard to the advisories for the Williamstown community including seafood advisories for the Hunter River and Port Stephens.

As you know the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) review of the human health reference values for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is now complete. As such the Expert Panel's Human Health Risk Assessment Working Group has undertaken additional analysis of seafood from the area with the inclusion of additional data provided from the Department of Defence. The previous advice of the Expert Panel has now been updated, and the Expert Panel recommends:

1. revised consumption advice for the Williamstown Community on home grown or home slaughtered produce
2. the current prohibition on the commercial sale of Dusky Flathead is no longer required as the additional data, along with an assessment of the commercial market indicates exposure is similar to other species and no special risk management is required
3. new dietary advice for recreational and commercial fishers and their families, who are more likely to eat produce in greater quantities from the local area, has been proposed for seafood based on FSANZ's revised human health reference values. This advice is for people who may wish to limit their exposure to PFAS from seafood from the Hunter River (including Fullerton Cove) and Tilligerry Creek.

Obviously communication of this advice to the Williamstown community is a challenge and the Expert Panel members stand ready to help on this matter as needed.

Yours sincerely

**Mary O'Kane**  
NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer

30/3/17