



DOC25/128208

Ms Cate Faehrmann
Chair
Select Committee into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies throughout
New South Wales
Parliament House of NSW

By email: pfas@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

I refer to the inquiry hearing on 5 February 2025 into PFAS Contamination in Waterways and Drinking Water Supplies Throughout New South Wales.

Please find enclosed my response to the question taken on notice during the hearing.

Thank you also for the opportunity to review the uncorrected transcript. I do not have any corrections or clarifications to the transcript.

Yours sincerely

STEVE BEAMAN PSM
Executive Director Regulatory Practice & Services

Encl: Answer to transcript question

NSW Environment Protection Authority
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Inquiry into PFAS Contamination in Waterways & Drinking Water Supplies Throughout NSW

NSW EPA response to the question on notice (page 65 of the transcript)

The CHAIR: We'll go back to the Hunter Water sewage treatment plant in a second. But for Ourimbah Creek, recognising that the Sydney Water contamination there was potentially from a 1992 petrol tanker crash and Fire and Rescue NSW said to us that they had undertaken a collection of data and evidence of big accidents that had occurred and firefighting foam was used between the mid-80s, right through until 2007 or something in areas that potentially would see foam going into the catchment. Does your investigation extend to that? Are you looking at the types of serious accidents that occurred around the area?

STEPHEN BEAMAN: I think that one I'd have to take on notice. I haven't actually had a chance to sit with the team in detail in the last couple of days, but I know they've been out testing last week. I can take that on notice.

Answer:

On 24 January 2025, Central Coast Council notified the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of an exceedance of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) for PFAS in a raw water sample in the upper reaches of the Ourimbah Creek Catchment.

The Council is working with the EPA and NSW Health to identify potential PFAS sources, such as those within the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan 2.0 – Appendix B that may contribute to PFAS contamination in the waterway.

In recent weeks, the EPA has been undertaking sampling at targeted locations in the catchment to understand potential sources; these results will be published on the EPA's website when they are available.