

**Submission  
No 1**

**INQUIRY INTO INQUIRY INTO PFAS CONTAMINATION  
IN WATERWAYS AND DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES  
THROUGHOUT NEW SOUTH WALES**

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TO: Select Committee on PFAS Contamination in Waterways and Drinking Water Supplies Throughout New South Wales

FROM: Member for Wagga Wagga, Dr Joe McGirr

Dear Committee team

Please accept this submission into your inquiry in the form an invitation to visit Wagga Wagga as part of your investigations into PFAS contamination of water supplies.

As you may be aware, PFAS contamination in the bore water supply to the city of Wagga Wagga has been closely monitored and investigated since 2016 when it was confirmed that the substances had entered local properties and water courses from the RAAF Base, and later from the Kapooka Army Base in 2021.

While the contamination is of low level and not harmful to human health, it has lead to health advice and warnings and compensation and the issue has naturally caused concern in the Wagga Wagga community, resulting in a concerted effort by the city's leaders to ensure the community is fully informed about all aspects of this matter.

I have worked closely with Riverina Water, Wagga Wagga City Council, Defence, the Federal Government, the Federal Member for Riverina, Michael McCormack, and other agencies to individuals to ensure the community is fully aware of the current state of the PFAS plume in the city's groundwater, its forecast spread, health risks if any, and ongoing testing measures.

Throughout this experiences, important experience has been gained that I believe would be of significant help to the committee. PFAS contamination is a complex issue and one that understandably concerns the community, and I think we have learnt from the situation in Wagga Wagga. I believe the lessons learned from our city's experiences could apply to other communities facing similar issues.

Should you be willing to accept this invitation, I would be pleased to provide any appropriate steps to bring together key stakeholders and collected data to assist with your inquiry.

Dr Joe McGirr

Member for Wagga Wagga