

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**MERYL SWANSON MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PATERSON**

**BLOOD TESTS AND BUYBACKS ON THE AGENDA**

Shadow Minister for Defence, Richard Marles, and Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson, today met with residents and business people affected by the Williamtown RAAF base contamination issue at Salt Ash.

Mr Marles joined Ms Swanson in calling on the Turnbull Government to honour its election promises regarding blood testing of affected residents and potential buybacks of their land, and compensation for losses.

Labor urges the Minister for Health to ensure blood testing begins within six weeks, as promised by Defence at a community forum last week.

Mr Marles called on the Turnbull Government to immediately begin discussions with the affected community to resolve this issue quickly and fully.

In addition to the review of health guidelines under way, blood testing of affected residents, and buybacks of property and compensation, the Turnbull Government promised:

- \$55 million to manage, contain and remediate PFAs at Defence bases
- An epidemiological study into long-term health effects
- To bring the issue to COAG
- Nationally consistent levels for food, drinking water and recreational water
- Guidelines to manage the environmental impacts of PFAs.

Labor will continue to hold the Turnbull Government to these promises.

**MONDAY, 15 AUGUST 2016**