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OAKEY REPORT NO COMFORT UNTIL CONSISTENT APPROACH APPLIED

Today's [human health risk assessment](#) of the Oakey Army Aviation Centre highlights the urgent need for nationally consistent health guidelines for acceptable levels of exposure to perfluorinated chemical contaminants.

Without nationally consistent safety levels, authorities are forced to rely on interim or informal health guidance that could be revised or updated at any time.

Affected communities deserve the certainty that comes from knowing what's safe today won't be considered unsafe tomorrow.

But instead of consistency, the Turnbull Government has offered more reviews of reviews.

Communities living with PFOS and PFOA contamination cannot be expected to wait for action indefinitely.

That's why Labor was the first party to commit to establishing nationally consistent health guidance for perfluorinated chemical contaminant exposure.

In addition, Labor took to the election a commitment to establish a national intergovernmental taskforce, to coordinate the response of government agencies.

Labor's proposed taskforce would have also examined longer term issues associated with PFOS and PFOA contamination, including developing a strategy to support communities struggling to deal with commercial pressures or properties being deemed no longer fit for purpose.

Labor recognises the need for certainty, which is why our commitment included the production of an initial report within 90 days.

In contrast, the Turnbull Government's response has been slow, uncoordinated and poorly communicated to the local community.

Communities do not know whether they are waiting for a response from the Defence Minister, the Health Minister, the Department of Defence or the State Government.

On behalf of communities affected by chemical contamination in Oakey and around the country, Labor is calling on the Turnbull Government to develop and apply a nationally consistent set of health guidance relating to exposure levels.

MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2016