
From: Dr Michael Walton
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:16 AM
To: PFAS
Cc: Paul Rooms
Subject: RE: Select Committee into PFAS contamination in waterways and drinking water supplies throughout New South Wales - Transcript Corrections - 4 February 2025 & PFAS/PFOA test results

Hi Elspeth,

As requested, below are our corrections to the uncorrected transcript of evidence given by Mr Paul Rooms and Dr Michael Walton.

Transcript Page 2, paragraph 5

PAUL ROOMS: Yes, certainly. I was working on restoring a stone coin against the wall where I was working on. At first, I just thought it was a child machines.

stone quoin

Transcript Page 2, paragraph 8

MICHAEL WALTON: In June. I think we sent you an email advising it to check the time and date of the photos, but I think it was on the Friday before a couple of days beforehand.

a couple of days beforehand

Transcript Page 2, paragraph 13

PAUL ROOMS: No. Initially what I did was I went to get a sample. I obtained that sample. In doing so, I saw golf course management also looking at the attention of that management but they, for whatever reason, chose not to engage me with a sample and discussed it with Michael. I did not report it to any at Newcastle EPA has been—at best, I have absolutely no faith in their jurisdiction damage. Mr Walton might highlight on that a little bit.

I tried to draw the attention of that manager, but for whatever reason, chose not to engage me.

MICHAEL WALTON: Yes, it went on for a long time and it was never a loss of faith in calling Newcastle EPA or an authority. And we didn't know that it was PFAS and the agitation of the water that it could be. Paul got some on his hands, at I said but we were as surprised as anyone by the level of—

as I said in the submission, and it itched, but we were as surprised as anyone by the level of—

MICHAEL WALTON: And we're happy to provide the test results be of public interest, if the Committee want to put those up as part of their submission for

as part of our submission for people to interpret.

PAUL ROOMS: We haven't, because management saw what I saw. Their reaction showed it showed that they didn't want to engage with me on them, by the reaction of the management individual turning their head away from them when I was trying to attract their attention.

it showed that they didn't want to engage with me, by the reaction of the management individual turning their head away when I was trying to attract their attention.

MICHAEL WALTON: After Paul—I was working around the back and had our car down there where he was working on the stone quoin, and he told me when the manager was in close proximity to Paul, he had a shocked look on his face, he walked away and he walked away. Bear in mind Paul didn't know what he was seeing—he thought it was all new to us. It looked like it could have been PFAS, but none of us dreamt of that level.

stone quoin

PAUL ROOMS: I wouldn't hazard a guess to express what that impact could be. We might address the thought of remediation and fixing the problem, but previous experience suggests that it may not be in the interests of the particular government of the day to do so. That's the problem and everybody wants to allocate their money in different areas, even Defence. The solution is to get an independent body involved in this to make sure that our age group is not only residents, but just the basic outcomes of what we're going to face. Because the research shows that the costs of not doing anything. The latest study from the EU suggests that if they don't address the current levels of PFAS contamination that they face, then they face containment, trying to remediate what they can. So I think this is a wake-up call, and

The latest study from the EEA has estimated it at EUR \$82 billion if they don't address the current levels of PFAS contamination that they face now.

Transcript Page 5, paragraph 16

MICHAEL WALTON: Yes. In a previous submission—Paul read all drew my attention to one where I understand there were PFAS drums, or alleged to This individual that wrote this submission included a couple of photos—Paul w drawn attention, I think it was Department of Agriculture at least, and alleges th it had fallen on deaf ears.

The individual who wrote this submission also included a couple of photos

Transcript Page 6, paragraph 6-7

When I was accessing that information, especially regarding the Salt Ash there was a high reading pertaining to a particular well—I think it was well 13— couldn't be conducted—I believe they used contractors—because either the well: by vegetation. When I read that, I felt like lending them my whipper snipper. I mea level and, unfortunately, I couldn't go into further detail because I can't access th

I couldn't go into further detail because I can't access that online site anymore.

Transcript Page 7, paragraph 5

PAUL ROOMS: And my contact with Meryl Swanson would have been was at a Tanilba Bay Labor meeting hall and, from memory, Giacomo Arnott atten along the same lines about the spread of PFAS and that I felt residents really need this and it should be a priority to check with Hunter Water and check about the sp that I believe Meryl was chairing a committee on PFAS as well, so it seemed to m

And my contact with Meryl Swanson would have been just prior to the 2019 federal election.

I might add that Meryl later chaired a federal committee on PFAS-

Transcript Page 7, paragraph 17

MICHAEL WALTON: I wouldn't say "conspiracy"; that's your term organisational failure across multiple organisations, and I believe one of the thing the cost of knowing the truth of the spread of PFAS and PFOA—the economic, b costs are such that the executive really don't want to know.

the economic, business, real estate, health and environment costs are such that executive branches of governments really don't want to know.

Additionally, as advised to the Inquiry during our evidence please find attached a copy of the PFAS and PFOA test results.

Sample 1 – Drinking water – Lemon Tree Passage – deemed safe/pass by Australian current guidelines.

Sample 2 – Pacific Dunes sample result that we discussed in our submissions and during evidence to the Inquiry.

With thanks,

Michael



Dr Michael Walton

Clinical Psychologist

PhD (ClinPsych), BSocSc (Hons1), BCA, GradDipPsych, DipCouns, DipClinHyp, JP
Chancellor's Doctoral Research Medal - University of New England

Member Australian Psychological Society
Fellow APS College of Clinical Psychologists
Member Australasian ADHD Professionals Association
Member Association for Contextual Behavioral Science

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I acknowledge and respect the traditional lands, waters and communities of all indigenous Australians. I respect elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As I work and live on Awabakal and Worimi lands, I will be mindful of their culture, traditions and values.

If you or anyone you know needs help after hours, then call



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MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978,



Kids Helpline on 1800 551



800,

1800 Respect on 1800 737 732,



Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling on 1800 011 046,



Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467,



Blue Knot on 1300 657 380,



SANE Australia on 1800 187 263 or



Hunter Mental Health on 1800 011 511, and

