



## HOLSWORTHY BARRACKS, NEW SOUTH WALES

<b>Base Address</b>	Holsworthy, New South Wales
<b>Base Established</b>	1880s
<b>Region</b>	New South Wales
<b>Date of Last Data Review</b>	April 2016



### Description

Holsworthy Barracks is located in the outer south-western Sydney suburb of Holsworthy, approximately 25 kilometres south west of central Sydney. The barracks is part of the Holsworthy military reserve, which covers an area of almost 20,000 hectares. The area has been a training area and artillery range for the Australian Army since World War I. Following World War II it became a major base for the permanent component of the Australian Army in New South Wales.



### Base Activities

Activities include or have included the use of firing ranges, chemical weapons testing, fire fighting training, vehicle maintenance, and bulk chemical storage and distribution from numerous above ground and underground storage tanks. The chemical storage areas primarily contain fuels and waste oils, but also include small quantities of fire fighting foams, chlorine, paint and herbicides.

Potential sources of contamination also include abandoned incinerators, battery stores, general engineering workshops, sewerage treatment plants and several waste disposal areas that have been used to dispose of waste from site operations. The majority of waste has historically been disposed to landfills; however some waste (e.g. sludges, building debris, vehicles) has been stockpiled around the site.

### Contamination Information

#### Known Contamination

Known contamination around the barracks includes:

- Fuel/oil related compounds in soil at numerous locations around the barracks – primarily around oil separators, and areas where fuel is stored in above ground or underground storage tanks;
- Nutrient and biological contamination of soil around areas where sewerage disposal onto surface soils has occurred;
- Heavy metal (copper, lead, mercury, nickel, zinc) and benzo(a)pyrene contamination within some of the fill material tested around the barracks;





- Heavy metal contamination (mainly lead, copper, chromium, zinc) in soils around firing range areas. Some elevated concentrations of lead have also been found in groundwater beneath some of the firing range areas;
- Isolated areas of asbestos contaminated soil within designated waste disposal areas and in some of the firing range stop butt areas; and
- Groundwater with elevated levels of ammonia and lead near one of the underground fuel storage tank areas.

### **Risk Assessment**

Potential risks from known contamination have been identified. These risks are actively managed by Defence to ensure that impacts to human health or the environment are minimised.

### **Current Status**

A Stage 1 desktop assessment and targeted Stage 2 intrusive investigations, including assessment of soil and groundwater quality have been completed for the site.

Stage 4 remediation of hydrocarbon and asbestos contamination has occurred in former fuel storage areas around the barracks. Remediation and validation of lead impacted soils has also occurred in range areas.

### **Other Information**

For further information, contact Department of Defence at [yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au](mailto:yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au).

For further information on per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), refer to <http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/>.

