



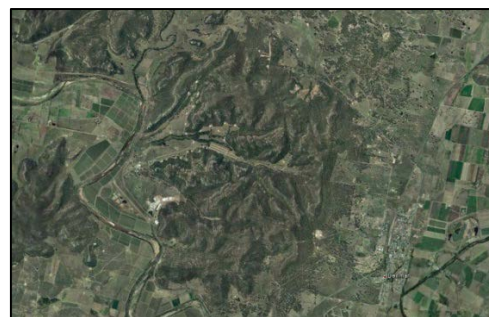
MYAMBAT AMMUNITION/ EXPLOSIVES DEPOT, NEW SOUTH WALES

Base Address	Muswellbrook, New South Wales
Base Established	1938
Region	Northern New South Wales
Date of Last Data Review	May 2016



Description

The Myambat Explosive Ordnance Depot is located within the Upper Hunter Valley approximately 10 kilometres west of Denman, NSW and 180 kilometres north of Sydney. The property is 1700 hectares and has been used for storage of explosives and ammunitions since 1938. The facility stores all forms of ammunition used by the Australian Defence Forces. In recent times, the demolition range has also been used by private companies for activities such as quality assurance testing of batches of explosives that are supplied to coalmines.



Base Activities

Activities include the use of firing ranges, underground fuel storage and distribution. A large number of landfills used for the disposal of a wide range of materials include domestic waste, building materials and wastes from on-site activities (e.g. ammunition boxes, mortar casings, tyres etc.) exist on the property. Some waste materials, including munitions were burnt prior to disposal.

Contamination Information

Known Contamination

Known chemical contamination around the depot includes lead in near surface soils (within 1 metre of the surface) around burning ground areas, where shells were burnt prior to disposal. A localised area of the depot is known to contain high levels of magnesium and TNT in soil. The contaminants were produced during steaming operations to remove explosives from high explosive devices.

Elevated lead, manganese, ammonia and nitrate concentrations have been found in surface water samples downstream of the depot, indicating that site operations may be impacting on surface water quality.

Elevated heavy metals have been found in soils around some of the landfill areas.





Risk Assessment

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

Current Status

A Stage 1 desktop investigation has been completed for the property. Stage 2 Investigations into the underground petroleum storage system and some targeted remediation works around some areas of the depot have been undertaken.

Defence will conduct further investigations around the depot and additional remediation works as required.

Other Information

For further information, contact Department of Defence at yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au.

