



SHOALWATER BAY TRAINING AREA, QUEENSLAND

Base Address	Shoalwater, Queensland
Base Established	1965
Region	Queensland
Date of Last Data Review	April 2016



Description

The Shoalwater Bay Training Area has been one of Australia's prime military training areas since 1965. The training area was first used by troops who were deployed to the Vietnam War. The base is located approximately 80 km to the north of Rockhampton and lies within a primary conservation zone surrounded by national parks including the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, pastoral leases and the Waterpark Creek catchment (drinking water catchment). The Shoalwater Bay Training Area is approximately 453,700 hectares (ha) with 289,700 ha occupied by terrestrial environments and the remaining area 164,000 ha occupied by marine environments. The property comprises a large parcel of land which includes the Warginburra Peninsula, part of the Torilla Peninsula, Townshend and Leicester Islands, and a sizable land parcel of the Shoalwater Bay hinterland north of the village of Byfield.



Base Activities

The main activities include or have included the use of weapons ranges and firing ranges.

The property contains several landfills which were historically used to accept a variety of wastes from historical activities and from Defence operations.

Although not specifically related to current base activities, the property is also known to contain numerous disused cattle and sheep dips with associated chemical storage areas and abandoned gold mines.

Contamination from current practices include waste transfer stations, live fire impact areas, rifle ranges, historical spills and leaks from vehicles.

Contamination Information

Known Contamination

There is known unexploded ordnance within the target area used for live firing practices, including potential explosive residues and heavy metals.





Asbestos debris from former buildings is spread over an area of approximately 500 m². The area is considered low risk given the remote location and that it is not normally used by exercising units.

Some isolated spills of petroleum hydrocarbons have occurred. The petroleum hydrocarbons have been remediated and validated to the extent practicable with some residual hydrocarbon present in the bedrock at concentrations which are not considered to present a risk.

Risk Assessment

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

Current Status

Stage 1 desktop investigations have been completed for the property. Defence conducts ongoing investigations and management processes for this property. Remediation works for a diesel petroleum spill occurred in 2011.

Continued surface water quality monitoring program undertaken by Queensland's Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) which includes monitoring for perchlorate.

Other Information

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

