



RAAF BASE AMBERLEY, QUEENSLAND

Base Address	Ipswich, Queensland
Base Established	1940
Region	South Queensland
Date of Last Data Review	April 2016



Description

RAAF Base Amberley has been operated by Defence as an airfield for more than 60 years. The base is currently the largest operational Airforce base in Australia with a size of over 1,600 hectares, and employs more than 3,000 personnel. The base is located 7 kilometres from Ipswich and 50 kilometres southwest of Brisbane.



Base Activities

Activities include the operation and maintenance of aircraft. The base has several aircraft maintenance areas, which incorporate battery workshops, wash-down areas, engine testing facilities. Potential sources of contamination include storage of aviation fuel in above ground and underground tanks, the use of fire fighting foams in fire fighting training areas, a sewerage treatment plant, an electroplating facility with a water treatment plant, a railway yard, a service station, firing ranges, chemical storage areas and historic land filling sites.

Contamination Information

Known Contamination

Known contamination around the base includes:

- Fuel in soil.

Some leakage of fuel is known to have occurred from above ground and underground storage tanks in former fuel farm areas at the base. The leakages have resulted in areas of fuel contaminated soil.

- Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) in soils.

Redevelopment works on the base have identified soils contaminated with aqueous film-forming foam chemicals associated with former fire training areas.

- Heavy metals in surface waterways.





Discharge of poor quality water from the sewerage treatment plant has led to some elevated concentrations of heavy metals in receiving surface water bodies.

- Wastes disposed into landfill areas.

A range of wastes have been disposed into landfill areas, including asbestos, oils, solvents, poisons, aircraft parts, car bodies and parts, drums and building demolition waste. These disposal practices have led to contamination within soils in these areas.

- Heavy metals from firing ranges.

Activities from firing has resulted in a localised area of soil containing elevated concentrations of heavy metals in a localised area of soil from buried waste derived from firing range activities.

- Radioactive materials

Buried radioactive waste is known to exist around some areas of the base. The associated contamination is at safe levels and the area is carefully managed.

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, Stage 2 intrusive investigations, Stage 3 remediation design and feasibility assessments and Stage 4 remediation programs associated with redevelopment works have occurred.

Surface water and groundwater monitoring is conducted to ensure that the completed remediation and management works are successful in minimising environmental impact to the surrounding environment.

Defence will conduct further investigation, remediation/management, as required.

Other Information

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

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

