



## RAAF BASE TOWNSVILLE, QUEENSLAND

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Base Address</b>             | Townsville, Queensland |
| <b>Base Established</b>         | Late 1930s             |
| <b>Region</b>                   | North Queensland       |
| <b>Date of Last Data Review</b> | April 2016             |



### Description

RAAF Base Townsville occupies an area of 900 hectares on low lying coastal salt flats and ephemeral wetlands. The base is located approximately 5 kilometres north west of the Townsville CBD. Although the Commonwealth owns the land, Defence allows civilian use of the runway with commercial airport facilities east of the main runway. The site was developed as RAAF station Garbutt in World War 2 and operated Australian and US bombers during this period.



### Base Activities

Activities include the operation and maintenance of aircraft. Potential sources of contamination include the storage of aviation fuel, diesel, waste oil and petrol stored in above ground and underground tanks the use of fire training areas, firing ranges, workshops and chemical storage areas and historic landfills used to dispose of waste from former base operations.

### Contamination Information

#### Known Contamination

Known contamination around the base includes:

- Contamination around fire training areas.

Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) chemicals used during fire fighting training have been detected in soil and groundwater around some of the training areas. Elevated levels of petroleum hydrocarbons have also been detected in groundwater around one of the fire training areas.

- Fuel in soil.

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

- Wastes disposed into landfill areas.

A range of wastes have been disposed into landfill areas. These disposal practices have resulted in some heavy metal contamination of soil and groundwater.





### **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**

Stage 1 desktop and targeted Stage 2 intrusive investigations to assess the soil and groundwater quality have been conducted around areas of the base to support redevelopment works.

Further Stage 2 intrusive investigations and Stage 3 and 4 remediation design and management works will be conducted as required.

### **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/>.

