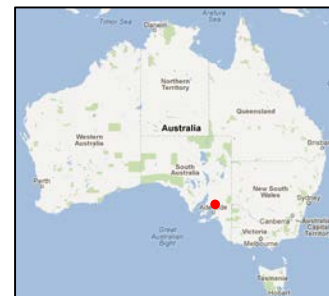




PROOF & EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT, PORT WAKEFIELD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Base Address	Port Wakefield, South Australia
Base Established	1929
Region	Central and West
Date of Last Data Review	May 2016



Description

The Proof & Experimental Establishment Port Wakefield is located 8 kilometres south of Port Wakefield and 83 kilometres north, north-west of Adelaide. The property is on approximately 5,600 hectares of land. The property is used for weapons research and testing for the Australian Army and Royal Australian Navy. The property is located near the northern tip of Gulf St Vincent and the tidal movements near the property make it the only range in Australia where projectiles can be fired into a coastal area and retrieved relatively undamaged for assessment and review.



Base Activities

Activities with the potential to cause contamination include weapons testing, explosives training and ordnance (including confiscated fireworks) burning activities.

The property contains photographic and x-ray developing facilities, a transport yard (which includes vehicle refuelling facilities and vehicle wash-down areas), a workshop, battery stores and effluent evaporation ponds.

The property also contains numerous landfills and other dedicated waste disposal areas, which have been used to dispose of waste materials from site operations. There is the potential for fire fighting training activities on the property.

The property also contains some former farmland areas, which includes farmhouses, workshops and sheep dips.

Contamination Information

Known Contamination

Known contaminated areas around the property include the weapons testing range in the intertidal zone where elevated concentrations of phosphorous have been identified. Areas of unexploded and





exploded ordnance have also been found at various testing ranges around the property. Elevated levels of heavy metals have been found in an ordnance burning area. Elevated levels of chromium have been found which have been inferred to be from the burning of Copper Chrome Arsenate treated timber.

Contamination has been detected in soil and/or groundwater around several fire fighting training areas. The contaminants identified include heavy metals (mainly lead), fuel related compounds, asbestos debris and perfluorinated compounds.

Elevated levels of hydrocarbons have also been found from hydrocarbon-stabilised golf scrapes around a former golf course.

Elevated levels of heavy metals, ammonia and phenol have been identified in soil and groundwater around waste liquid disposal areas that were associated with photographic and X-ray waste disposal. A range of wastes have been disposed into landfills across the property. Some of the wastes included asbestos containing materials.

Elevated levels of fuel related compounds, pesticides (including dieldrin) and heavy metals have been found in soil in the former farming areas. Pesticides and arsenic were identified around a sheep dip and other heavy metals and fuel related compounds were found around a workshop.

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

Defence has completed Stage 1 desktop investigations and Stage 2 intrusive investigations to assess the quality of soil and groundwater on the property.

Defence will conduct further investigations 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/>.

