



## Harold E. Holt Area B (HEHB)

### 2021 Annual Interpretive Report

In June 2018, Defence completed a Detailed Site Investigation to better understand the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination on and in the vicinity of HEHB. The outcomes of the investigation were used to develop a PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) for HEHB and surrounds. The PMAP outlined how Defence would manage potential exposure risks to PFAS, as well as monitoring the distance PFAS has migrated over the years, away from where it was first used. This is done by measuring any changes in PFAS concentrations through the Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP).

#### What is an Annual Interpretive Report (AIR)?

The Annual Interpretive Report (AIR) reports on and interprets the samples taken across a 12-month period as part of the PFAS OMP.

In the AIR, we use this information to assess whether it changes our understanding of the nature and extent of PFAS contamination in the area.





HEHB has had one previous AIR (for 2020) and we will continue to prepare AIRs to report on monitoring rounds completed in 2022 and onwards.



#### The 2021 HEHB AIR

This AIR covers groundwater, seepage water, surface water and sediment sampling conducted between November 2020 and October 2021, from locations on and around HEHB. The AIR also compares the results of the new sampling to previous results

#### Number of samples collected and analysed from the 2021 AIR

 <p><b>Groundwater</b></p>	Groundwater is water beneath the earth's surface. It often supplies bores, wells or springs.	<b>63 samples</b> collected from 33 groundwater monitoring wells
 <p><b>Surface Water</b></p>	Surface water is water that collects on the ground and can be in the form of creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans and more.	<b>9 samples</b> collected from 4 surface water locations
 <p><b>Seepage Water</b></p>	Seepage water is water that is present in the ground and is moving between surface water and groundwater.	<b>12 samples</b> collected from 6 seepage water locations
 <p><b>Sediment</b></p>	Sediment is made of broken down remains of rocks, minerals, plants and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.	<b>33 samples</b> collected from 11 sediment locations

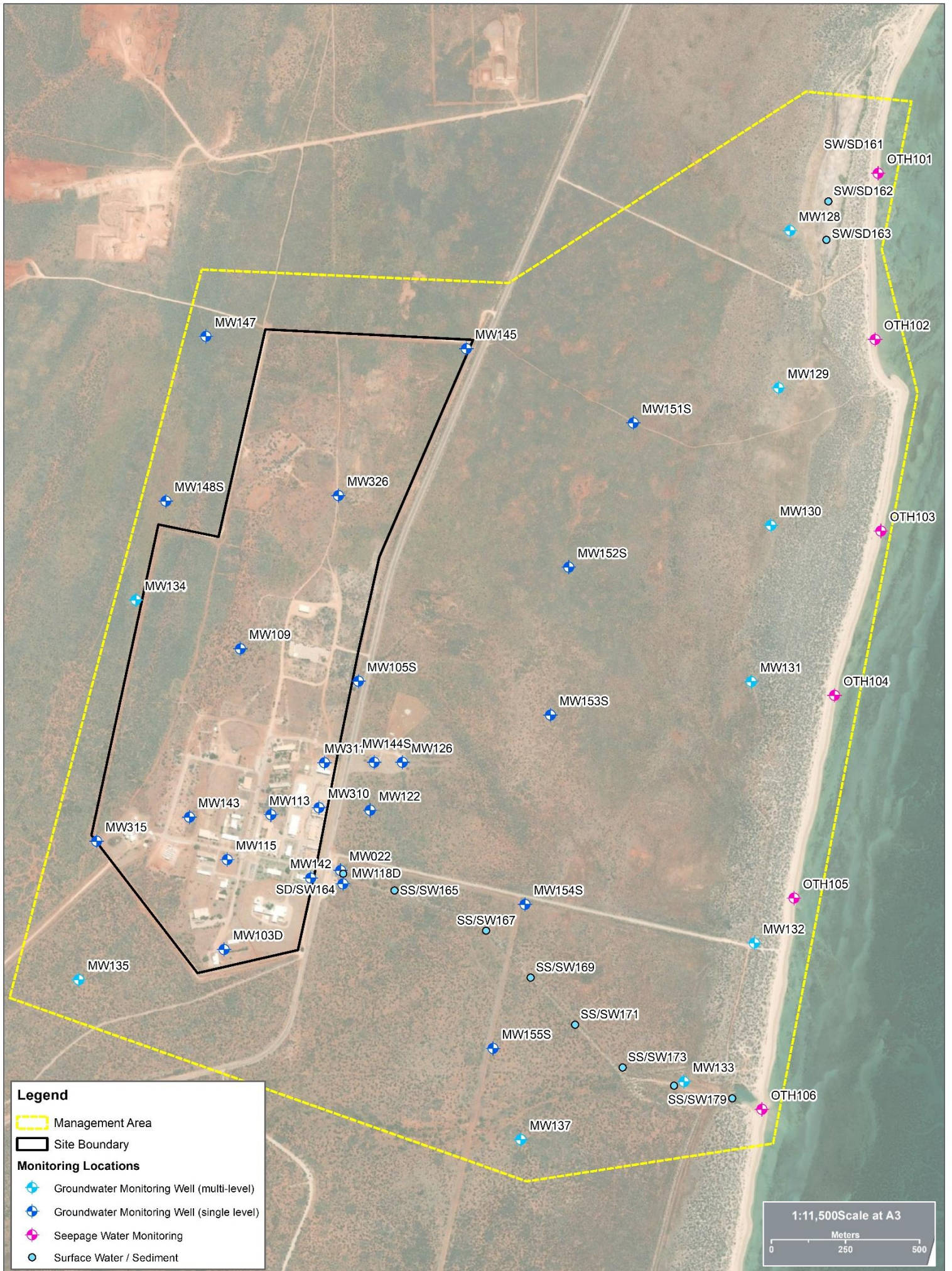
#### What does the 2021 AIR tell us?

Based on the samples we collected and analysed we found that the nature and extent of PFAS contamination within the HEHB Monitoring Area is similar to previous results from sampling conducted between 2010 and 2020. The PFAS is either not reaching the coastline or dilution is occurring such that PFAS is at concentrations below laboratory detection.

The AIR findings **do not suggest a change in any potential exposure risks** outlined in the PMAP here: <https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/HaroldEHolt/publications.asp>

We will continue to monitor every six months at the locations identified in the OMP, and will complete another review of monitoring results as part of the upcoming 2022 AIR.





**Figure 1**  
**Harold E Holt Area A Monitoring Locations**





## Keeping you informed and engaged

Defence will continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS at and around HEHB.

### Read the full 2021 HEHB AIR



Scan the QR code here



Or, use the link below to access the AIR:  
<https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/HaroldEHolt/publications.asp>

### What does that word mean?



Scan this QR code to find a list of definitions to our key terms and acronyms:



<https://defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Glossary.asp>

## Looking for more information?



Scan this QR code to learn more about investigation and remediation activities at HEHB:



<https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/HaroldEHolt/>



Scan this QR code for more information on how Defence manages PFAS contamination:



<https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/>

Or, you can contact:



1800 365 414



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### Media enquiries



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