



RAAF Base Learmonth

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 around RAAF Base Learmonth. The outcomes of the investigation were used to develop a PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) for the RAAF Base and surrounds. The PMAP outlined how Defence would manage potential exposure risks to PFAS, as well as monitoring the movement of PFAS 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.





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

The 2021 RAAF Base Learmonth AIR

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



Number of samples collected and analysed from the 2021 AIR

Groundwater 	Groundwater is water beneath the earth's surface. It often supplies bores, wells or springs.	93 samples collected from 49 groundwater monitoring wells
Surface Water 	Surface water is water that collects on the ground and can be in the form of creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans and more.	50 samples collected from 22 surface water locations
Seepage Water 	Seepage water is water that is present in the ground and is moving between surface water and groundwater.	12 samples collected from 6 seepage water locations
Sediment 	Sediment is made of broken down remains of rocks, minerals, plants and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.	146 samples collected from 49 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 RAAF Base Learmonth Monitoring Area is similar to previous results from sampling conducted between 2010 and 2020.

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

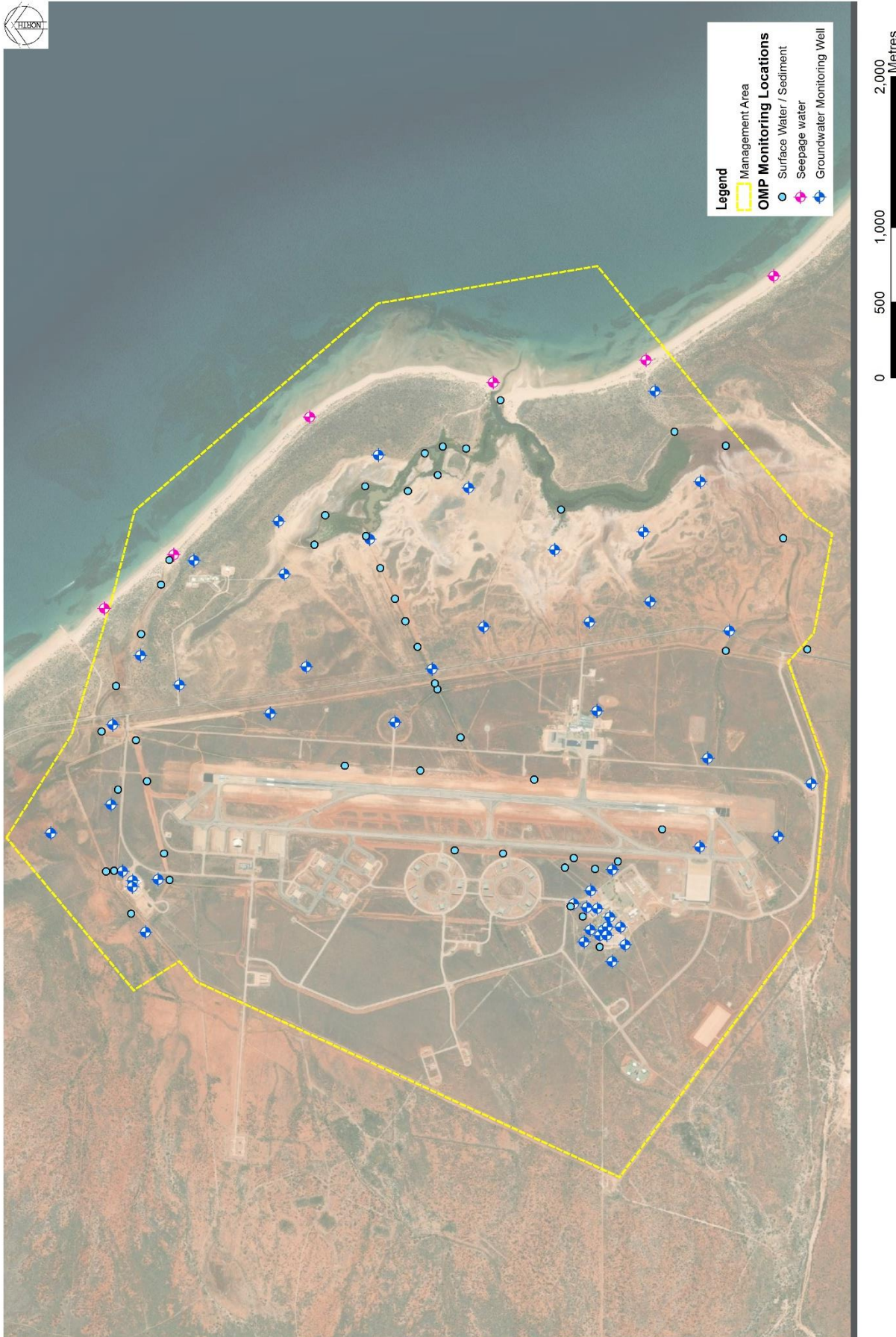


Figure 1
RAAF Base Learmonth Monitoring Locations



Keeping you informed and engaged

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

Read the full 2021 RAAF Base Learmonth AIR



Scan the QR code here



Or, use the link below to access the AIR:

[https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/
Learmonth/publications.asp](https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Learmonth/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](https://defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/Glossary.asp)

Looking for more information?



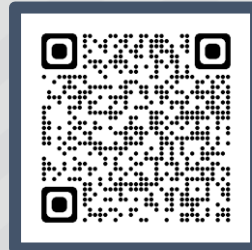
Scan this QR code for answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):



[https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/
Learmonth/](https://defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Learmonth/)



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



pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

Media enquiries



Direct media enquiries to the Defence media centre on (02) 6217 1999 or media@defence.gov.au