



Community Information Session

PFAS Investigation and Management Program

RAAF Base Darwin
PFAS Investigation and Management Program Update
Monday 28 August 2023





Acknowledgment of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Larrakia people, the traditional custodians of the land on which this meeting takes place, and also pay respect to Elders both past and present.

We would also like to pay our respects to the Indigenous men and women who have contributed to the defence of Australia in times of peace and war.





Welcome



Session outline:

- What are PFAS?
- Findings from the environmental investigation
- Recent progress and activities
- Ongoing Monitoring Plan update
- 2023 Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report key findings
- Next steps
- Questions

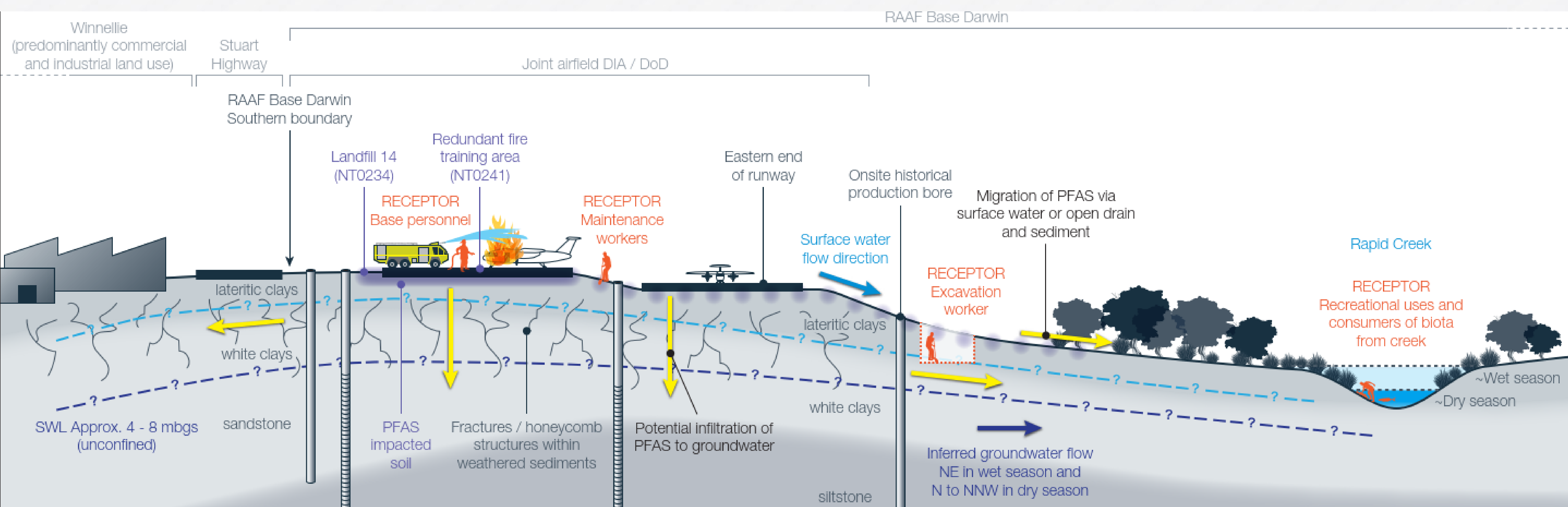


What are PFAS?





How PFAS moves in the environment





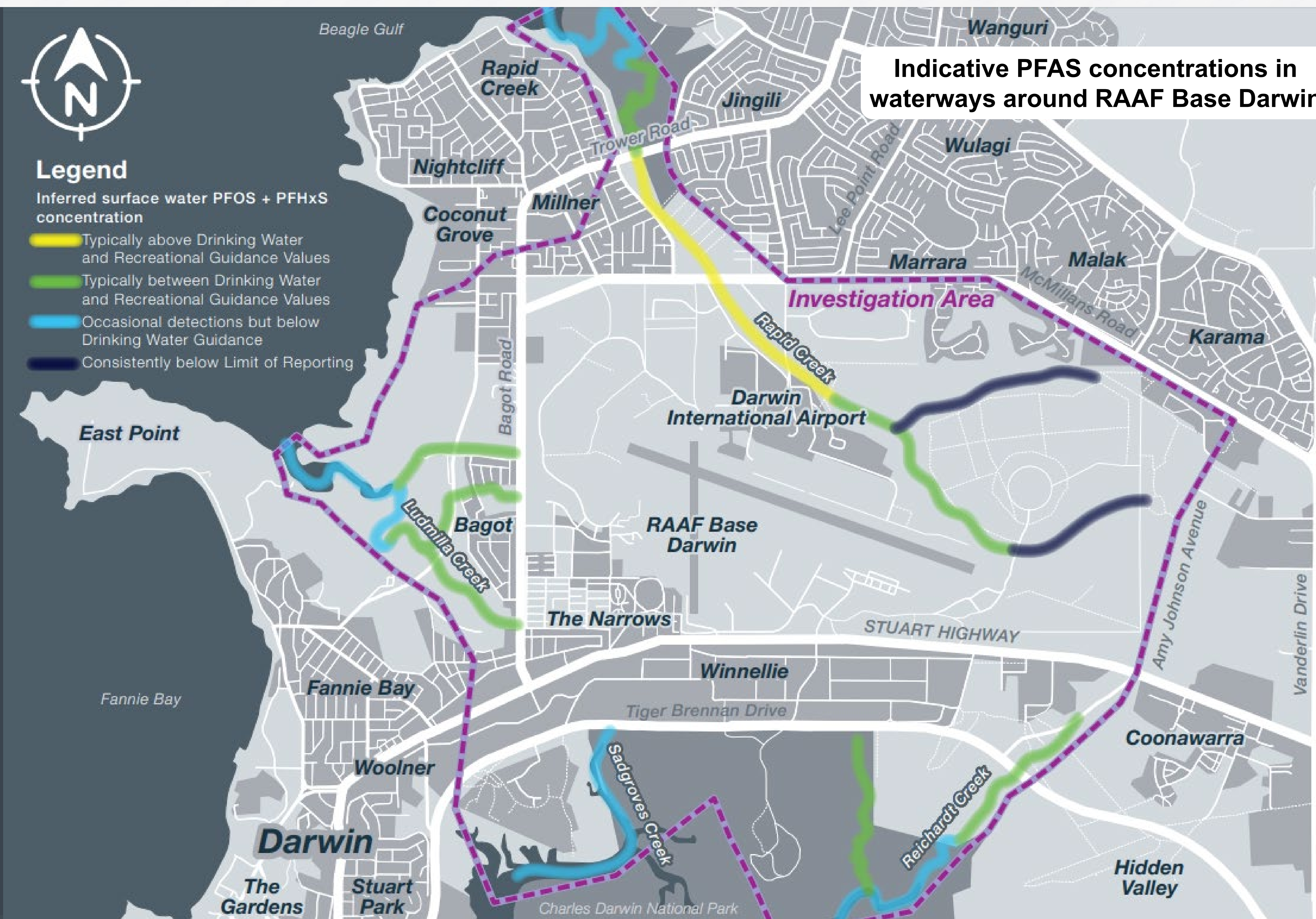
Key investigation findings

- 11 on base source areas were identified.
- PFAS was found in soil and water.
- The main migration pathway of PFAS moving off base is through surface water.
- Groundwater moving to Rapid Creek and Ludmilla Creek also contributes to PFAS moving off base.













Key investigation findings



Human Health Risk Assessment

Scenario	Risk
Consuming fruit and vegetables.	
Breathing dust from PFAS contaminated soil	
Contact with soils or waters	
Consuming fish or crustaceans from Darwin Harbour	
Undertaking construction or maintenance work on RAAF Base Darwin or Darwin International Airport	
Recreational water use, including swimming	
Consuming home-grown eggs	
Consuming fish, crustaceans or molluscs from Rapid and Ludmilla Creek.	

Low and acceptable risk



Potentially elevated under certain conditions



Elevated in typical scenario

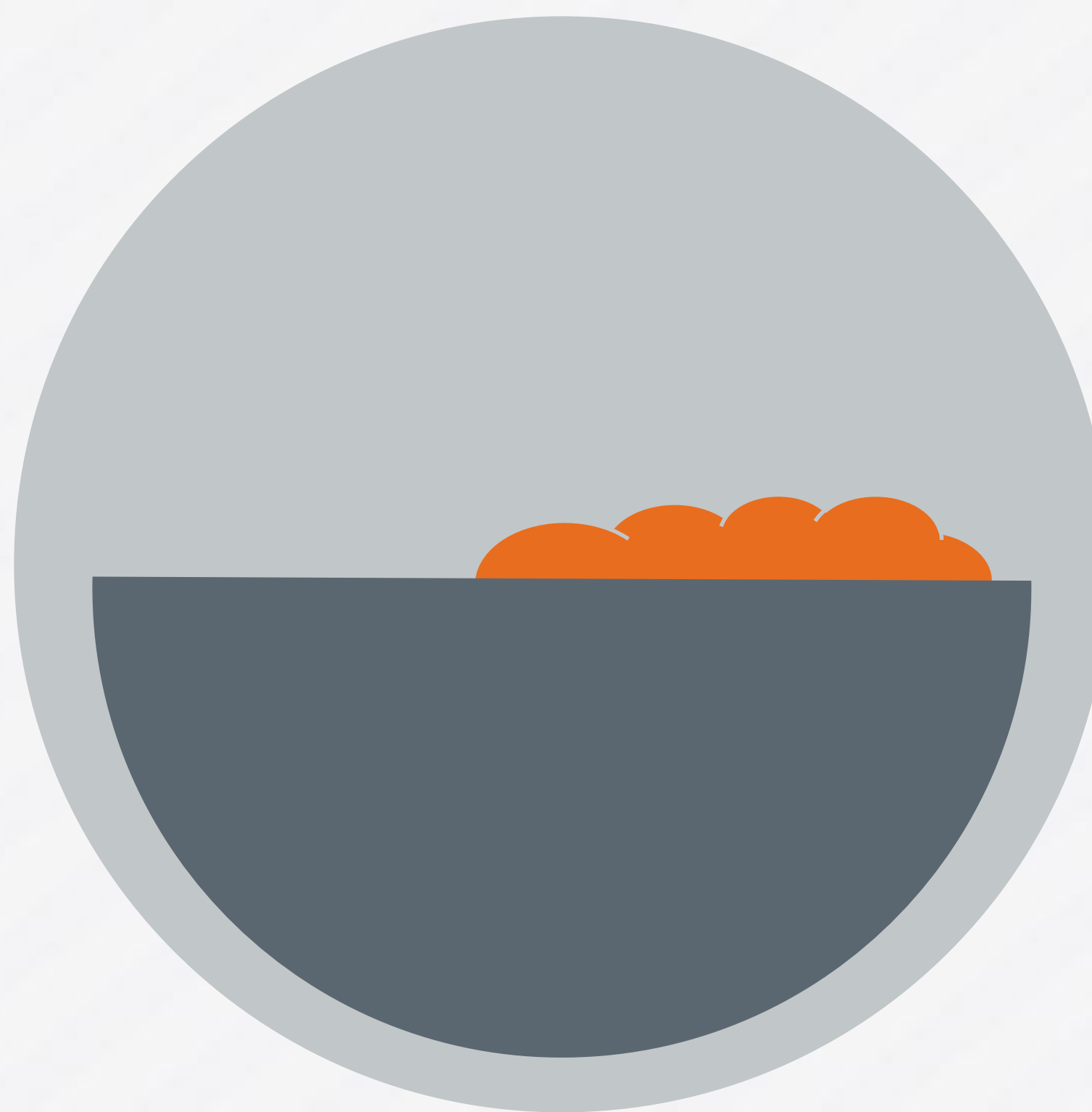




What's happened since the June 2022 community session?



Commenced soil remediation at Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) wrapped stockpiles and Former Fire Training Area 1 source areas.



Completed remediation works at Hangar 31 and Former Fuel Farm 1.



Completed a PFAS assessment to understand the amount of PFAS moving off base.



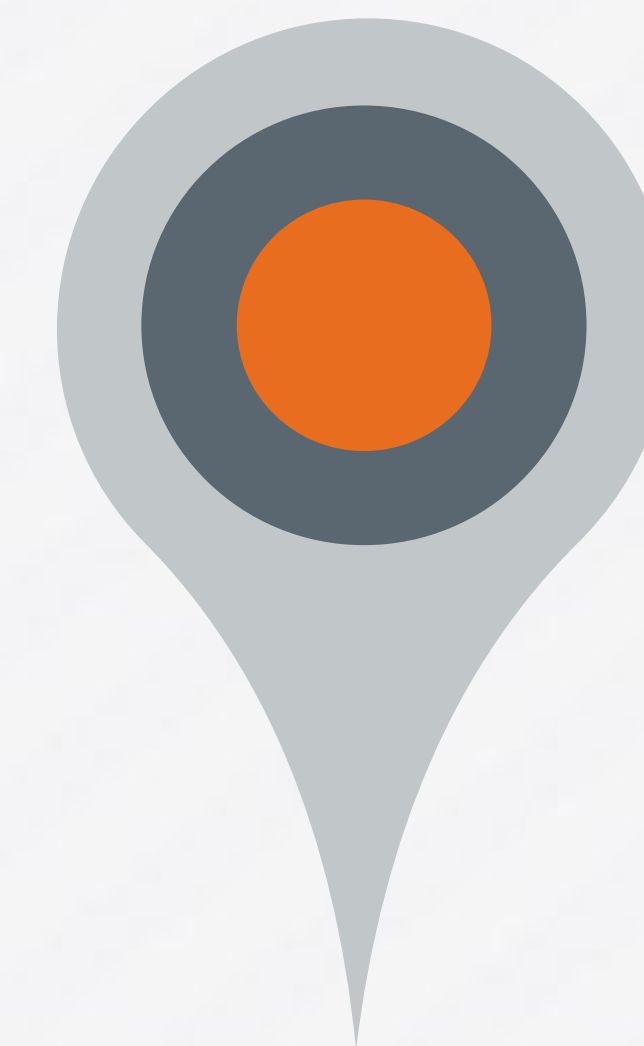
Implemented interim measures at current Fire Training Area, to reduce PFAS entering Rapid Creek.



Commenced developing Remediation Action Plans for other main source areas.



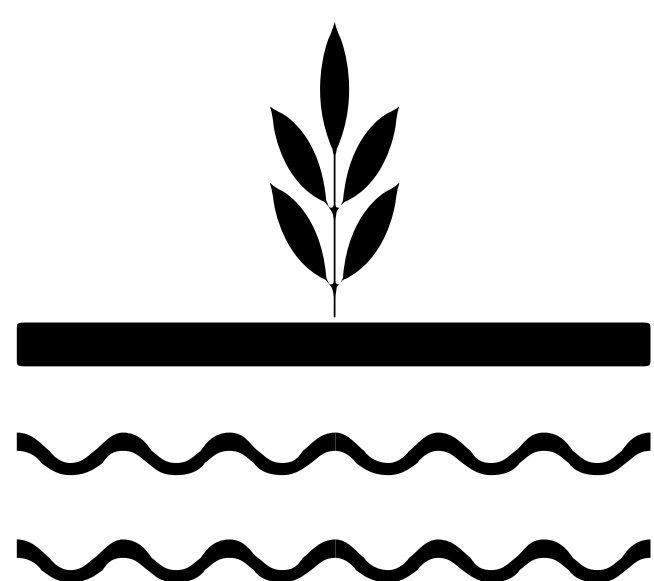
Working collaboratively with Darwin International Airport.



Ongoing monitoring sampling in October 2022 and March 2023.



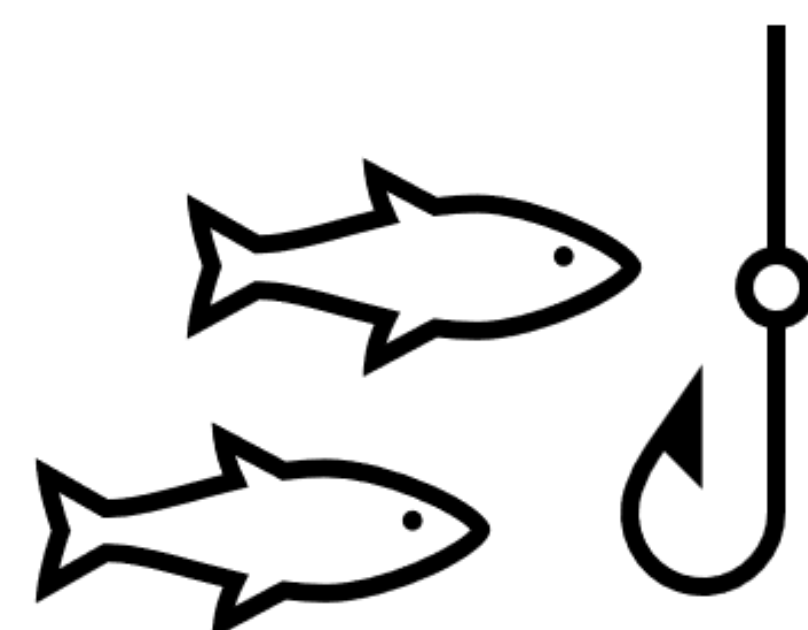
Ongoing Monitoring Plan



200 groundwater samples from 34 locations



165 surface water samples from 23 locations



162 aquatic biota samples from 6 locations



2023 Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report

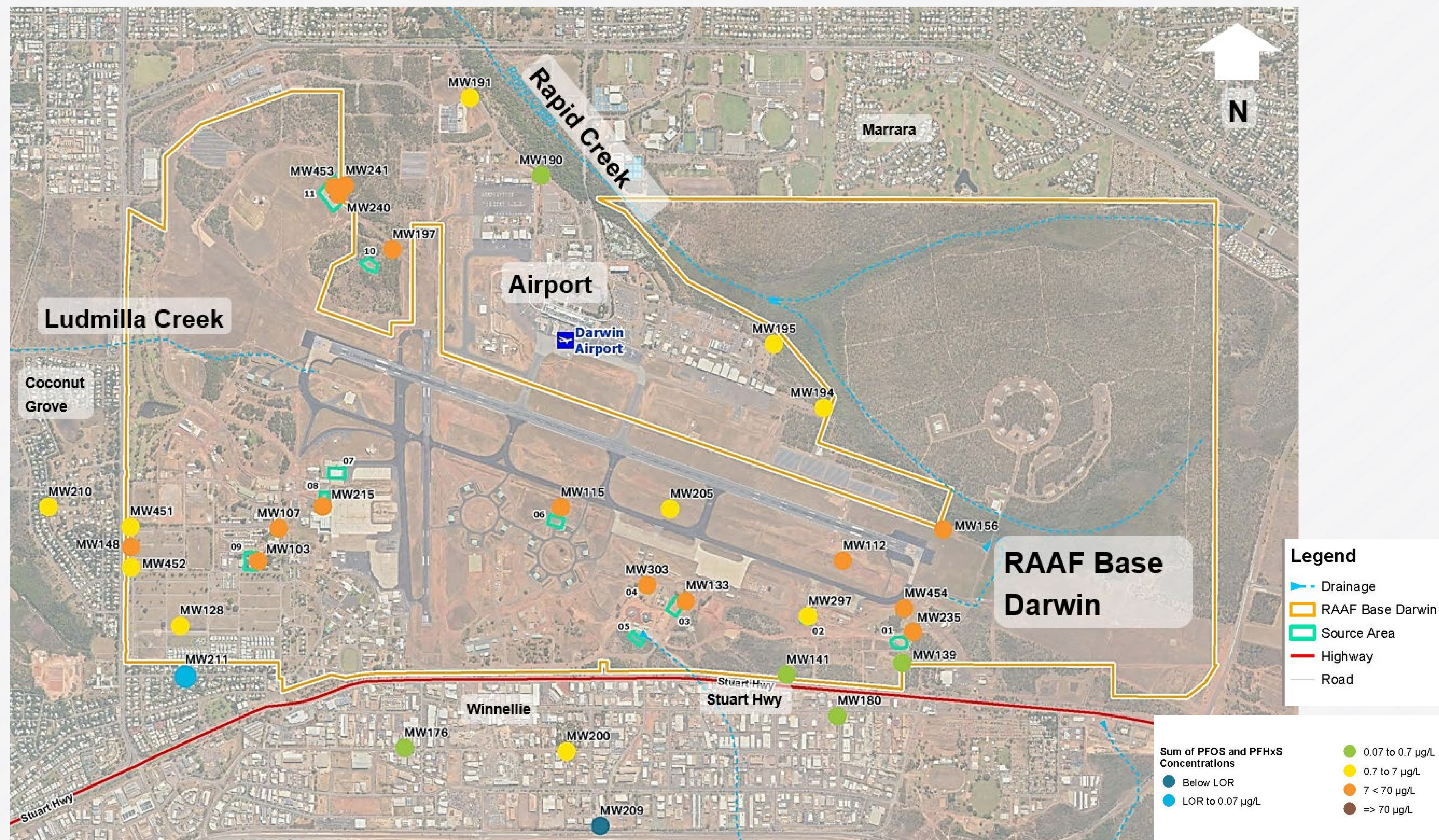


- Human Health Risk:
No significant changes
- PFAS in groundwater:
Stable or decreasing
- PFAS in surface water: **Above** recreational water guidelines in **some locations**
- PFAS in aquatic animals: **similar to previous results** (some exceedances of guidelines).

Correction: The original version of this presentation contained advice relating to RAAF Base Darwin that was incorrect. The presentation should have contained the following advice:
PFAS in surface water: Above recreational water guidelines in some locations.
Defence apologises for this oversight.



Ongoing Monitoring Plan





Next steps



Investigate remediation option for current Fire Training Area.



Continue working with Darwin International Airport.



Complete Remediation Action Plans for remaining source areas.



Sampling

- October 2023
- March 2024.



Update the community.



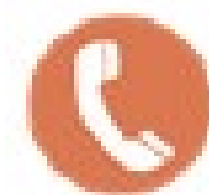
Questions



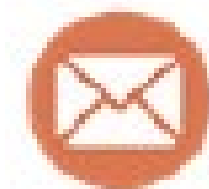


Thank you

Contact us



Phone: 1800 333 362 free call (business hours)



Email: pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au



Website: www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-darwin

