



Community Information Session

PFAS Investigation and Management Program

Swartz Barracks

PFAS Investigation and Management Program update

Wednesday 27 November





About tonight's session

- Why is PFAS a problem?
 - What are PFAS?
 - How PFAS moves in the environment
 - What does it mean for you?
- Swartz Barracks (formerly Army Aviation Centre Oakey): what are we managing?
- Remediation actions overview
 - Soil stabilisation
 - Groundwater treatment
 - Groundwater strategy review
- What our PFAS monitoring has told us
- Next steps
- Questions and answers

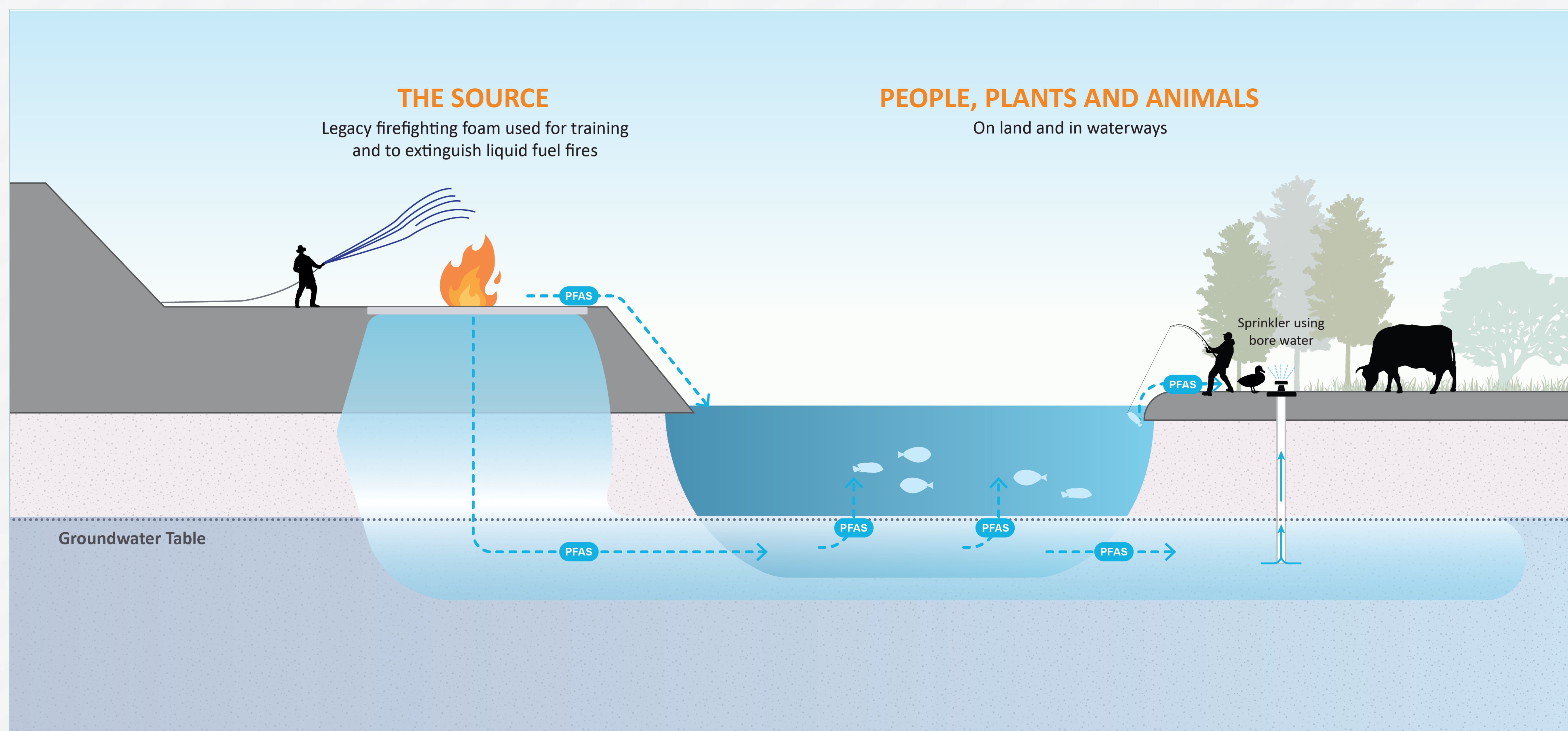


What are PFAS?





How PFAS moves in the environment



Generic representation



What does mean for me?

PFOS

PFOA

PFHxS



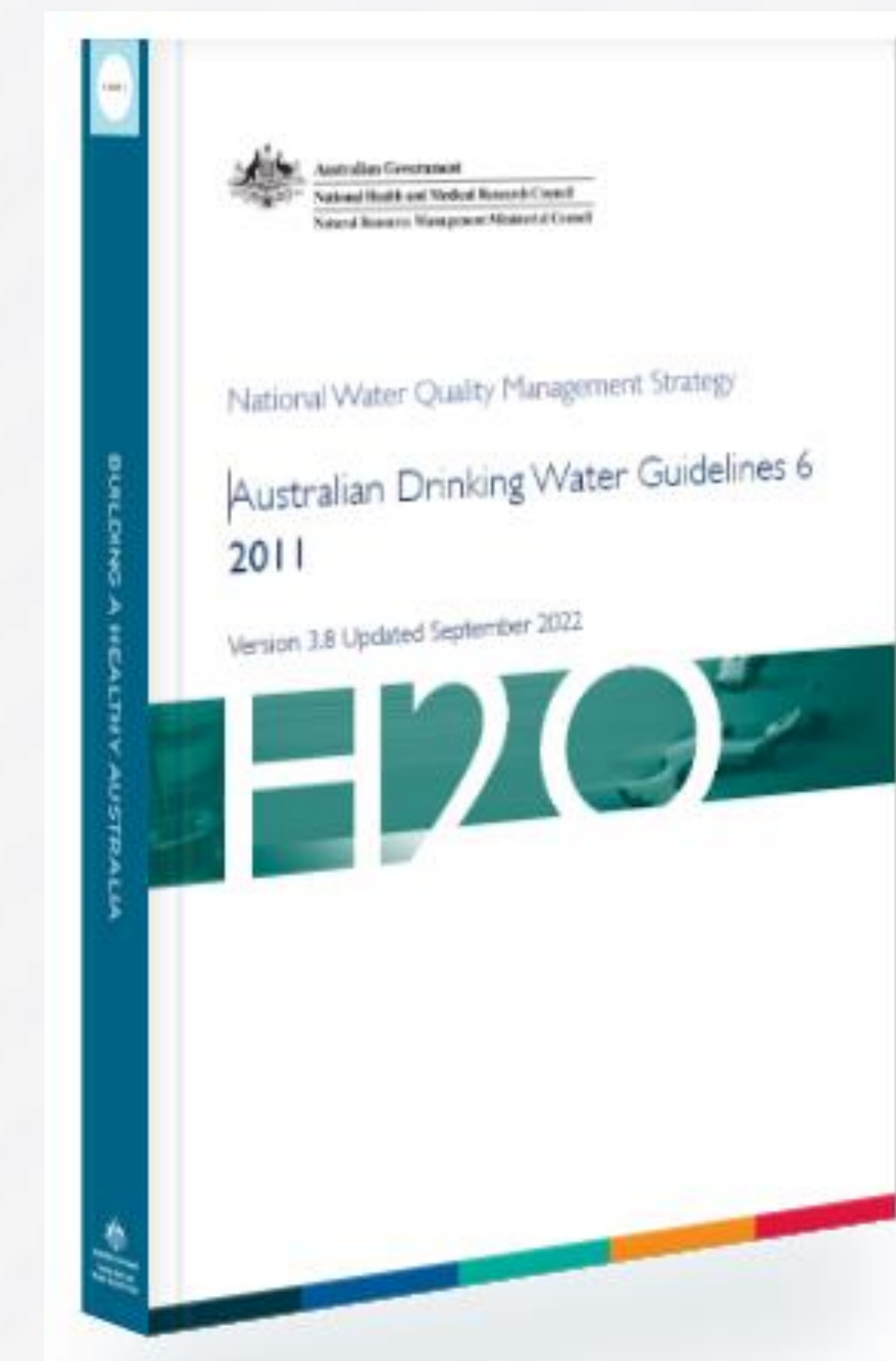
**Australian Drinking Water
Guideline**



Recreational water guideline



Draft changes to the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

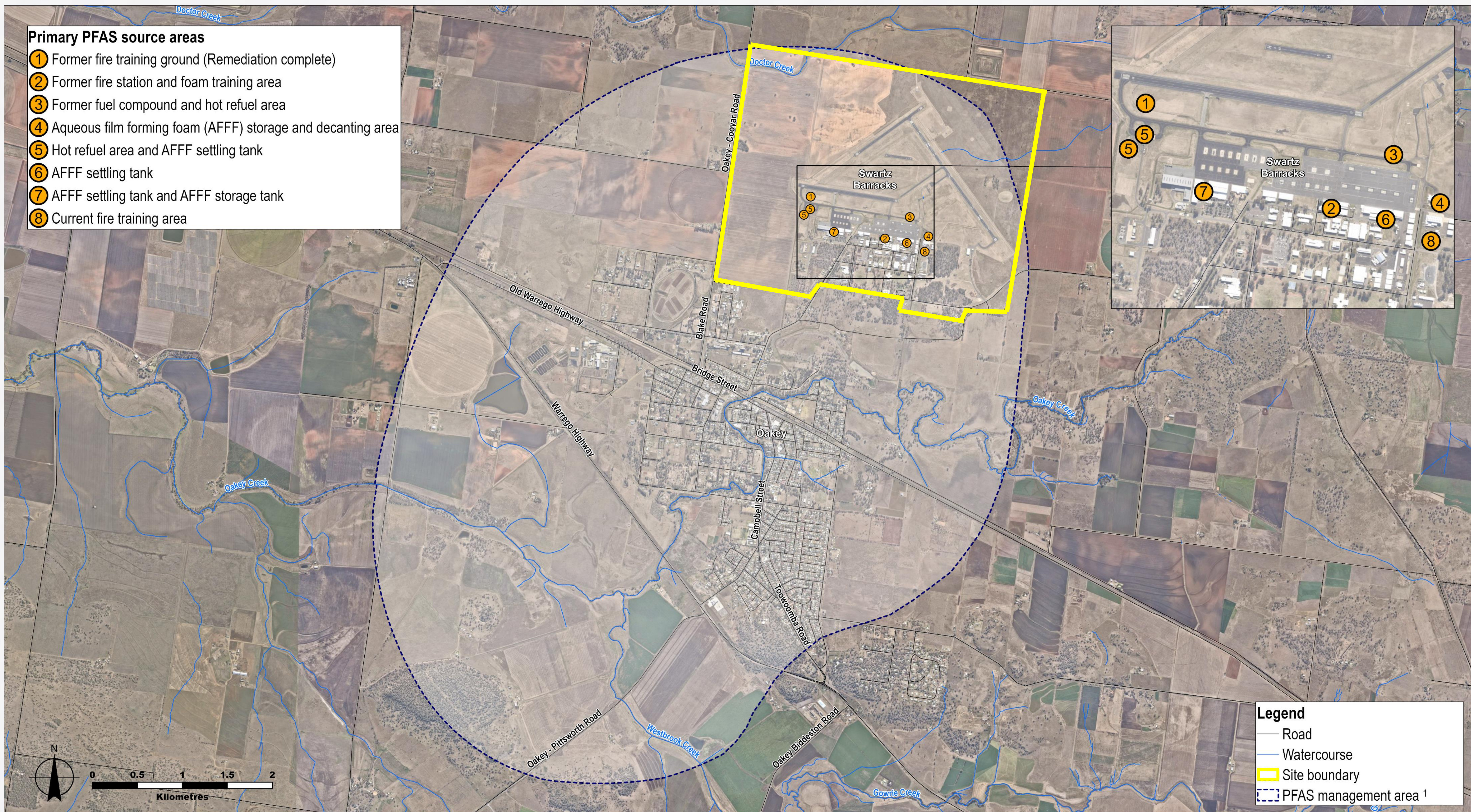




Swartz Barracks – what are we managing?

Primary PFAS source areas

- ① Former fire training ground (Remediation complete)
- ② Former fire station and foam training area
- ③ Former fuel compound and hot refuel area
- ④ Aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) storage and decanting area
- ⑤ Hot refuel area and AFFF settling tank
- ⑥ AFFF settling tank
- ⑦ AFFF settling tank and AFFF storage tank
- ⑧ Current fire training area



¹The term 'PFAS management area' refers to the combined area of Swartz Barracks and the Oakley Management Area as defined in the PFAS management area plan.



Remediation actions



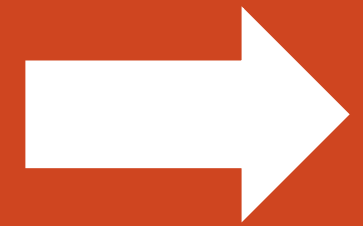
The aim of remediation is to minimise PFAS leaving the base by remediating source areas



Completed: Remediation at former fire training ground



Ongoing: PFAS removal from groundwater via the water treatment plant



Upcoming: Remediation at four source areas



Planning: AFFF settling tank





Soil stabilisation

Soil is excavated for
stabilisation or
thermal destruction
off base

ACTION

Stabilisation
involves mixing
soil with activated
carbon granules

OUTCOME

Stabilised soils are
reinstated. PFAS is
bound within these
stabilised soils





Groundwater remediation

- Defence treats PFAS contaminated groundwater at Swartz Barracks.
- A groundwater treatment plant was installed in 2017, with a second plant installed in 2019.
- In 2022, these plants were rationalised to provide a single water treatment plant.
- To date, Defence has treated more than 300 million litres of PFAS contaminated groundwater to below detection levels, removing more than 1,000 g of PFAS from groundwater each year.





Groundwater Strategy Review

- Defence completed a PFAS migration assessment to better understand where, and the rate, that PFAS is moving through surface water and groundwater.
- The assessment confirmed that PFAS is leaving the base in surface water via drains to the south and in groundwater in a westerly direction, primarily beneath the western boundary.
- Highest PFAS concentrations along the western boundary were found directly west of known sources.
- Defence is now developing a groundwater remediation action plan to further reduce PFAS migration based on what we learned from the assessment.
- In the meantime, Defence continues to remove PFAS from groundwater at its existing water treatment plant.





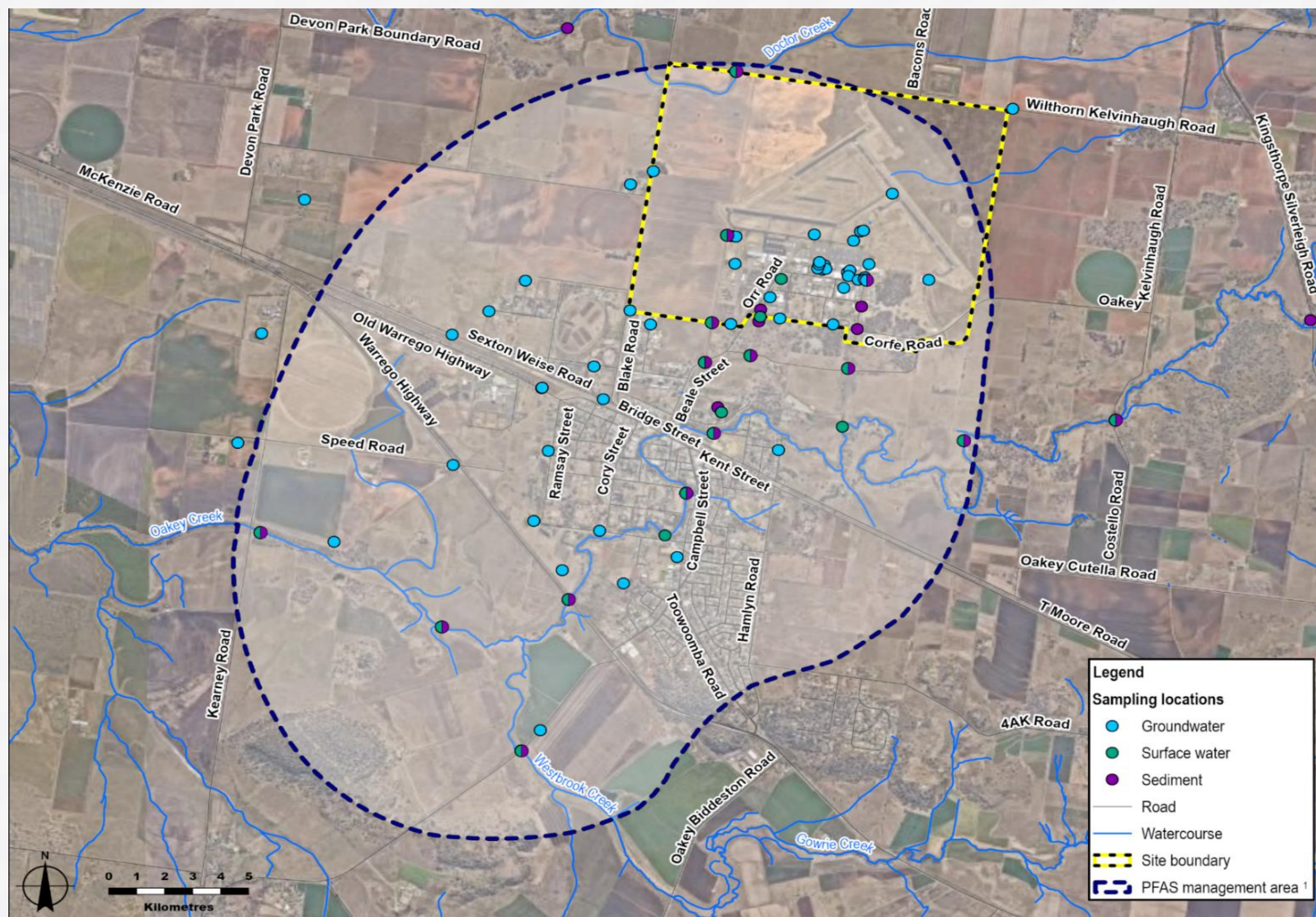
Ongoing monitoring

- Ongoing monitoring is important to understand if there are new risks to the community.
- Defence samples sediment and water twice per year.
- This sampling helps Defence understand any changes to where PFAS are found, and the levels of contamination in the environment.





Recent ongoing monitoring results



¹The term 'PFAS management area' refers to the combined area of Swartz Barracks and the Oakley Management Area as defined in the PFAS management area plan.

- Five rounds of sampling undertaken since last information session – generally consistent with previous sampling.
- New detection of PFAS in one well on the western side of the base and outside the current management area.
- Results from this location are below the current Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.



Next steps

- Commence soil remediation at four source areas.
- Continue to remove PFAS from groundwater at Swartz Barracks.
- Use the results from the Groundwater Strategy Review to plan further remediation approaches for groundwater leaving Swartz Barracks.
- Continue monitoring on and around Swartz Barracks.
- Continue to keep the community informed.
- Continue to provide water assistance to the community.





Australian Government
Defence

**PFAS INVESTIGATION AND
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

SERVICE
COURAGE
RESPECT
INTEGRITY
EXCELLENCE

Support



Australian Government

Department of Health and Aged Care



Australian Government

Department of Veterans' Affairs



**Beyond
Blue**

13 YARN



Questions



Contact us



Phone: 0412 959 342



Email: defence.oakey@ghd.com



Website: www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/swartz-barracks