



Ongoing Monitoring Plan 2025

RAAF Base Amberley

KEY POINTS

- Defence has updated the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Plan for RAAF Base Amberley and nearby areas.
- The Ongoing Monitoring Plan is regularly updated to reflect the latest sampling data, management actions and environmental settings.
- In updating the Ongoing Monitoring Plan, Defence consults with its Technical Advisor (an accredited Contaminated Land Auditor) and the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation.
- Sampling of surface water will continue twice a year and sampling groundwater will be conducted annually.
- Sediment sampling will discontinue as it is no longer informing the risk to the community from PFAS impacted soils at the base.
- Defence will continue to provide property owners with sampling results. Depending on privacy requirements, the results will be published in an Ongoing Monitoring Report.

What is an Ongoing Monitoring Plan?

The Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) outlines what Defence is sampling (e.g., water, sediment), where the sampling will take place, and how often.

This ensures Defence maintains an up-to-date understanding of any risk that the community may be exposed to from PFAS coming from the base. This understanding helps us work out the best way to minimise that risk.

Defence regularly reviews and updates the OMP to make sure what, where, and how often we sample provides us a good understanding of any change in PFAS risks.

Background

Defence has been monitoring PFAS on and around RAAF Base Amberley since 2017. Defence monitors for PFAS as part of its PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP). This was last updated in September 2020.

Ongoing Monitoring Plan and Ongoing Monitoring Report

The RAAF Base Amberley OMP outlines what Defence is sampling, where the sampling will take place, and how often.

The OMP also sets out what actions Defence will take if the sample results are significantly higher than previously recorded or are unexpected. These are called triggers.

The results of the sampling are compared with previous results and with the triggers to see if there are any changes to where PFAS is found, or the levels of PFAS found. This tells us whether a new action is required.

Defence provides property owners with sample results. Depending on privacy requirements, the results will be published in an Ongoing Monitoring Report (OMR). The October 2023 – July 2024 OMR for RAAF Base Amberley found that the levels of PFAS risk for the community have not changed over the monitoring period. This means that the precautionary health advice remains in place. For further information, visit www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/pfas/sites/ipswich.

Change to the Ongoing Monitoring Plan

In May 2025, Defence updated the OMP for RAAF Base Amberley and it is now available to view on the Defence website. Defence consulted with its technical advisor and the Queensland Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation in updating the plan.

The key changes in the OMP include:

- Surface water sampling will continue bi-annually to assess potential surface water movement pathways.
- Groundwater sampling will reduce from bi-annually to annually as groundwater moves slowly and the highest levels of PFAS are detectable after rain events.
- Sediment sampling will discontinue as it is no longer informing the understanding of risk to the community from PFAS leaving from the base.
- Additional surface water monitoring locations will be sampled at the source area, mid-point and where the water is discharged to the wider environment.

Defence made these changes based on the data we already have, and what we'll need in future to continue to understand if PFAS risks to the community change.

Next steps

Defence will continue to monitor PFAS in the environment, and take action if required. As new remediation actions get underway, monitoring will be undertaken to assess their effectiveness.

The revised OMP is available on the Defence website at,

www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-amberley

Contact us



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Scan the QR code to find out more about the PFAS Investigation and Management Program.



RAAF Base Amberley Ongoing Monitoring Locations

