



## 2025 Ongoing Monitoring Plan RAAF Base Darwin

### KEY POINTS

- Defence has updated the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Plan for RAAF Base Darwin and surrounding areas. This includes increasing the number of surface water monitoring locations in Rapid Creek and Ludmilla Creek, and groundwater monitoring locations beneath Ludmilla Creek and Darwin International Airport.
- The Ongoing Monitoring Plan is regularly updated to reflect the latest sampling data, management actions and environmental settings.
- The plan has been reviewed by a technical adviser who is a Northern Territory accredited site auditor.
- Sampling of groundwater and surface water will continue a minimum of two times per year, with biota sampling (fish and crustaceans) conducted annually.
- 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. soil, 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 per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and around RAAF Base Darwin since 2018. This monitoring is part of Defence's PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) for RAAF Base Darwin. The PMAP was last updated in February 2025.

### Ongoing Monitoring Plan and Ongoing Monitoring Report

The Ongoing Monitoring Plan (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 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 are 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.

The 2023 – 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report for RAAF Base Darwin found that the levels of PFAS risk for the community have not changed over the monitoring period.

This means that the precautionary advice issued by the NT Environmental Protection Authority for RAAF Base Darwin remains in place. More information about this advice is available here: [www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-environment/pfas](http://www.ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-environment/pfas)

### Change to the Ongoing Monitoring Plan

In January 2025, Defence updated the OMP for RAAF Base Darwin. To update the plan, Defence consulted with its technical adviser, an accredited site auditor. The updated plan is now available to view on the Defence website.

#### The key changes in the OMP include:

- increase in the number of groundwater wells being sampled across the base
- more frequent sampling at key surface water locations
- one surface water location was removed as results were consistently below detection limits.

Defence made these changes based on the data we already have, and what data we'll need in the 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 its effectiveness.

#### The updated PMAP and OMP is available on the Defence website at:

[www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-darwin](http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-darwin)

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