



Ongoing monitoring, remediation and scheme water update (May 2025) RAAF Base Pearce

Scheme water timeline



Design and approvals

Early 2022 – late 2023



Procurement of contractor to construct scheme water pipelines

Early 2024 – mid 2024



Construction of Bullsbrook scheme water pipelines

Late 2024 – mid 2025

WE
ARE
HERE



Initial site meeting to scope plumbing works

Mid 2025



Scoping document for plumbing works

Mid 2025



Plumbing works, household plumbing connections, rehabilitation work on private property

Mid-late 2025



Commissioning

Late 2025 – early
2026

*Timeframes are indicative and may change
based on weather and site conditions.*

Background

In November 2018, Defence completed investigations into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination on and around RAAF Base Pearce. Further studies and ongoing monitoring have occurred since this time.

The investigations found PFAS are mostly concentrated in areas where firefighting foams were previously used and stored. These are called source areas. PFAS can move from these areas into drains or creeks following rainfall. PFAS can also infiltrate to groundwater which slowly flows underground through the soil and rock. However, the amount of PFAS transported in groundwater on this base is far less than it is in surface water.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are manufactured chemicals that have been used globally in many household, commercial and industrial products, including legacy firefighting foams. These foams have historically been used worldwide by both civilian and military authorities because they are effective in fighting liquid fuel fires.

PFAS in the environment is a concern because these chemicals can accumulate and persist in humans, animals and the environment. Defence routinely monitors on and around RAAF Base Pearce to maintain an understanding of risks presented by PFAS.

Bullsbrook scheme water

To manage exposure to PFAS, Defence is working with the Western Australian Government to connect impacted properties in South and West Bullsbrook to the scheme water to ensure they have a safe source of drinking water.

Defence engaged Civcon to construct the pipe network and connect eligible properties. Works are underway and Defence expects the first home connections will commence in mid-2025.



Initial household plumbing connection works at Bullsbrook



Remediation update

Remediation aims to minimise PFAS leaving the base and reduce PFAS in the environment. Over time, remediation works are expected to reduce the amount of PFAS leaving the base.

Soil remediation works

Remediation of the fire training area, the largest PFAS source area on the base, is underway and expected to be completed in June 2025. Rain runoff from this area enters the main base drain that runs south and discharges to Ellen Brook and Ki-It Monger Brook.

This area is difficult to remediate due to the critical underground cables (such as fibre optic and communication lines) that service the air traffic control tower. The remediation approach minimises excavation and involves the placement of a waterproof membrane made from clay. This prevents rainwater contacting PFAS contaminated soil.

In 2021, a former PFAS foam storage shed was remediated. A smaller fire training area was investigated and determined to not require any remediation.



Soil remediation activities at the fire training area

Ongoing Monitoring Program

Routine monitoring of PFAS continues on and around the base. Monitoring helps Defence understand if PFAS contamination is changing over time, and informs management actions.

The latest monitoring results from January 2025 found no significant changes to PFAS distribution around the base. Defence collected and tested 136 samples of groundwater, surface water and sediment during this round of sampling.

An Ongoing Monitoring Report is due to be published on the Defence website in July 2025.

Keeping the community updated

Defence's priority is to support residents and keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around RAAF Base Pearce.

Looking for more information?



Scan the QR code below to find out more about Defence's PFAS Investigation and Management program at RAAF Base Pearce or visit:

www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-pearce-bullsbrook
<https://defence.gov.au/pfas/>



Alternatively, you can contact:



1800 987 614



bullsbrook.defence@ghd.com

Media enquiries

All media enquiries should be directed to Defence Media at, media@defence.gov.au