



2025 PFAS Management Area Plan

RAAF Base Amberley

KEY POINTS

- **Defence has revised the PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) updating how Defence will manage PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base Amberley.**
- **Defence's technical adviser, an independent contaminated land auditor accredited with the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI), has reviewed and endorsed the revised PMAP.**
- **Defence consulted with DETSI on the revised PMAP.**
- **To support community members and reduce their exposure to PFAS, QLD Health has issued precautionary advice for the local area. Information about this advice is available here: www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/pfas/sites/ipswich**
- **The revised PFAS Management Area Plan is available on the Defence website.**

What is a PFAS Management Area Plan?

The PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) sets out Defence's activities to manage the risks from per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination on and from RAAF Base Amberley.

The revised PMAP contains up-to-date information on how management activities are progressing and adjusts our management approach where required. Updates are informed by PFAS contamination data collected under the RAAF Base Amberley Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

Background

In 2017, Defence completed detailed environmental investigations into PFAS contamination on and around RAAF Base Amberley. Investigations determined that most PFAS are found in areas where firefighting foams were previously used and stored. These are called source areas. PFAS moves from these source areas into surface water and groundwater, and can then move off the base into the wider environment.

These investigations identified source areas on RAAF Base Amberley, where PFAS concentrations required further study or action. These studies or actions were captured in the 2020 PMAP.

A Human Health Risk Assessment was prepared in 2019 to assess the PFAS exposure risks to the surrounding community. It found that while the PFAS exposure risk to most people was low and acceptable, a 'potentially elevated exposure risk' was identified for the consumption of fish caught from local waterways, consumption of home-slaughtered beef or offal at private properties adjacent to Warrill Creek and consumption of eggs by children at private properties adjacent to Warill Creek.

Based on the outcomes of the investigations and risk assessment, Defence identified further studies or actions were required to manage the risks from PFAS contamination leaving RAAF Base Amberley. These studies or actions were captured in the 2020 PMAP.

Revised PFAS Management Area Plan

The following management activities have been addressed since the original PMAP was issued in 2020:

- New sewage treatment plant design work completed in 2022. Construction work commenced in 2023, with commissioning planned during 2025 – 2026.
- PFAS water treatment plants commissioned in 2023 to treat wastewater from catchments near fire training areas.
- Further surface water, soil and groundwater investigations to support remediation plan preparation.

The following activities are ongoing or planned:

- Investigations to facilitate preparation and development of remediation plans by 2026.
- Post remediation PFAS movement assessment to determine the effectiveness of remediation works.

Next steps

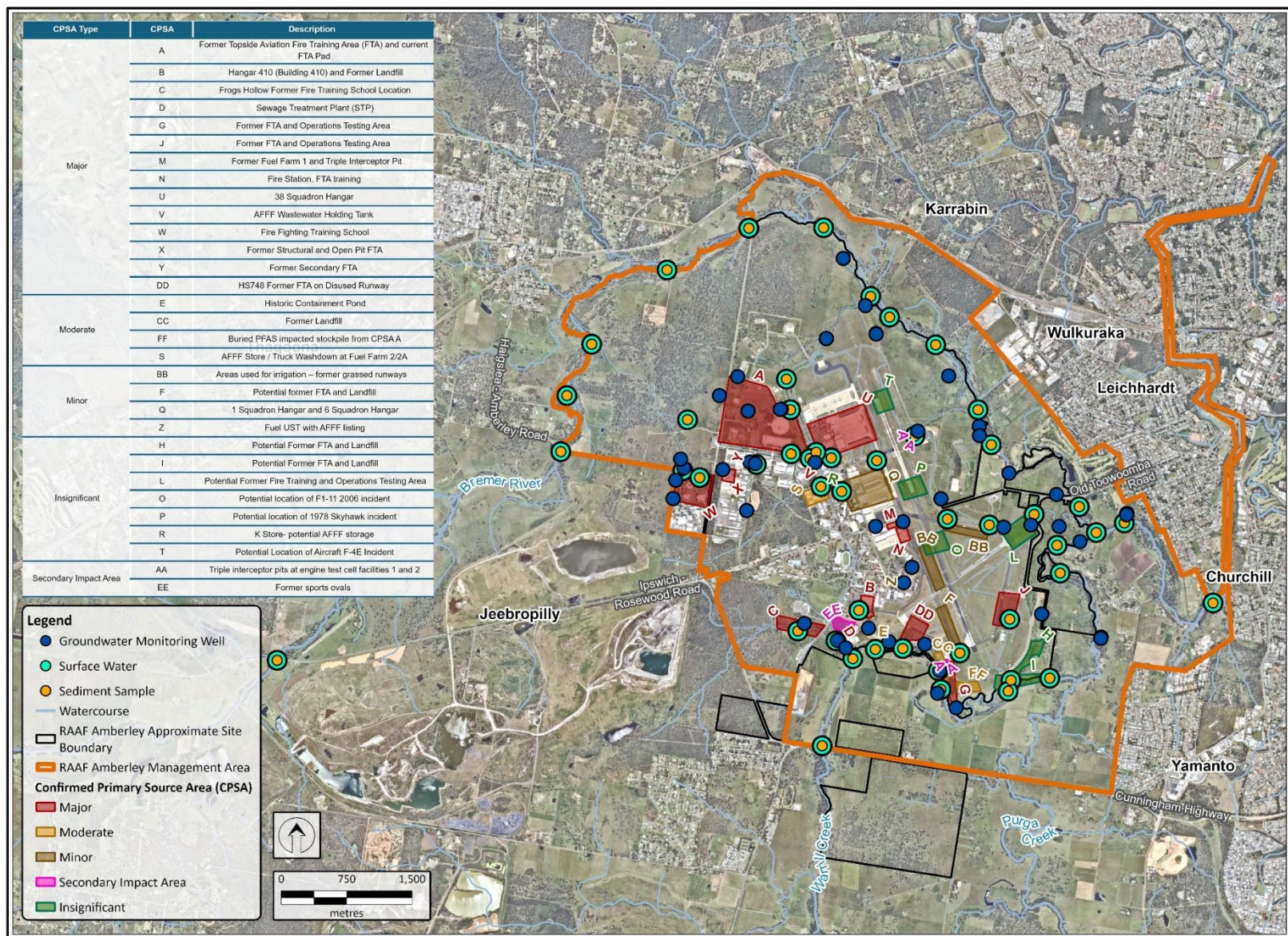
Over the next 12-18 months Defence will:

- Continue to monitor PFAS concentrations in the environment through an Ongoing Monitoring Program.
- Carry out risk management actions set out in the 2025 PMAP and continue to reassess these actions.
- Review, and if required revise the PMAP at regular intervals to prioritise actions to protect human health and the environment.
- Continue to keep the community informed.

For more information

A full copy of the revised PMAP is available on the Defence website at:

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



RAAF Base Amberley Confirmed Primary Source Areas

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

