



2025 PFAS Management Area Plan

Lavarack Barracks

KEY POINTS

- **Defence has revised the PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) updating how Defence will manage PFAS contamination on and from Lavarack Barracks.**
- **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, Queensland Health has issued precautionary advice for lakes in the suburb of Idalia. Information about this advice is available here:**
www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/pfas/sites/townsville
- **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 Lavarack Barracks.

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 Lavarack Barracks Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

Background

In 2019, Defence completed detailed environmental investigations into PFAS contamination on and around Lavarack Barracks. 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 Lavarack Barracks, where PFAS concentrations required further study or action. These studies or actions were captured in the 2020 PMAP.

In 2019, a Human Health Risk Assessment was prepared to assess the PFAS exposure risks to the surrounding community. While the PFAS exposure risk to most people was low, a potential elevated exposure risk was identified for people if they consumed two fish meals per week caught from lakes within the suburb of Idalia. Precautionary advice has been issued by Queensland Health for recreational fishing and the consumption of fish from the lakes within Idalia and Gordon Creek. Advisory signage is also in place. A 'potentially elevated exposure risk' was identified for people if they drink contaminated groundwater or surface water.

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

Revised PFAS Management Area Plan

Since 2020, Defence have completed the following actions:

- Disposal of 31,000 m³ of PFAS contaminated soil
- Delineation of contamination and preparation of a remediation action plan for the former fire station
- The monocell, (a base waste containment unit), is no longer considered a PFAS source and will not require remediation.
- PFAS contaminated surface water and groundwater from the former fire training area is not migrating into the lakes within the suburb of Idalia
- Confirmed the former fire station as the major source area of PFAS

The following activities are ongoing or planned:

- Remediation of former fire station
- Ongoing investigations to determine the source area contributing to the PFAS identified in the lakes within the suburb of Idalia
- Routine surface water, groundwater and sediment monitoring in accordance with the Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

For more information

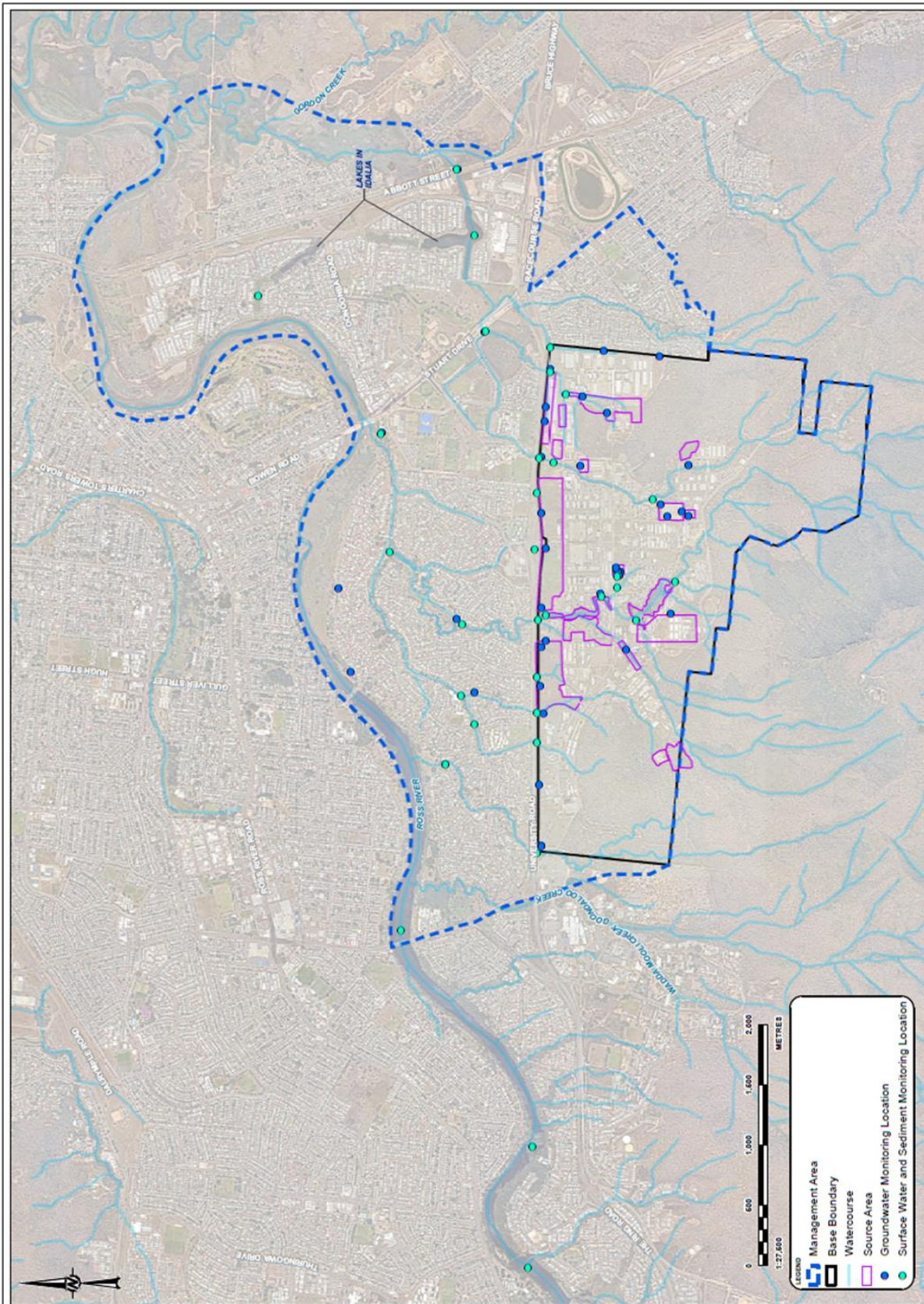
A full copy of the revised PMAP is available on the Defence website at: www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/lavarack-barracks



Australian Government
Defence

PFAS INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SERVICE
COURAGE
RESPECT
INTEGRITY
EXCELLENCE



Lavarack Barracks PFAS Management Area Plan Sampling Locations

Contact us



1800 333 362



pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

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

