



## 2025 Ongoing Monitoring Plan

### RAAF Base Edinburgh

#### KEY POINTS

- Defence has updated the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Plan for RAAF Base Edinburgh 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 an accredited site contamination auditor and the Environment Protection Authority South Australia.
- Sampling of groundwater and surface water will continue at varying intervals.
- All publicly available plans and reports are published on the Defence website.

#### What is an Ongoing Monitoring Plan?

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

This ensures Defence maintains an up-to-date understanding of any risk to the community 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 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 Edinburgh since 2020. This monitoring is part of Defence's PFAS Management Area Plan for the base.

#### Ongoing Monitoring Plan and Ongoing Monitoring Report

The RAAF Base Edinburgh Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) outlines what Defence is sampling, where the sampling will take place, and how often it will occur.

The OMP also sets out what actions Defence will take if sampling results are significantly higher than previous results or are unexpected. These are called triggers. Sampling results are compared with previous results and 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 publishes the results in an Ongoing Monitoring Report (OMR). The 2024 OMR for RAAF Base Edinburgh found that the levels of PFAS risk for the community have not changed over the monitoring period.

#### Establishment of a Groundwater Prohibition Area

The Environment Protection Authority South Australia (EPA SA) established a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) in response to PFAS contamination. The GPA protects both current and future landholders from accessing PFAS contaminated groundwater from a bore on their property.

The GPA was established in 2022 from the base to Port Wakefield Road and prohibits the taking of groundwater to depths up to 60 metres below ground level. In 2023, a second stage was established between Port Wakefield Road and Barker Inlet and extends to 20 metres below ground level. This prohibition does not extend to tertiary aquifers such as those used by schools and councils. For further information regarding the GPA, please visit the EPA SA website: [www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au/edinburgh](http://www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au/edinburgh).

#### Change to the Ongoing Monitoring Plan

In 2025, Defence updated the OMP for RAAF Base Edinburgh in consultation with an independent site contamination auditor accredited by the EPA SA. It is now available to view on the Defence website.

#### Key changes in the OMP:

- Surface water sampling will continue biannually, with samples taken in summer to target 'first flush' rainfall events where possible
- Locations where surface water is permanently present will be sampled to identify any changes in concentrations between wet and dry periods
- Sampling of quaternary aquifers will reduce from biannually to annually
- Biannual sampling is proposed for targeted tertiary aquifer bores to enable early identification of any PFAS impacts.

Defence made these changes based on existing data and a forward projection of what data would inform future potential PFAS risks to the community.

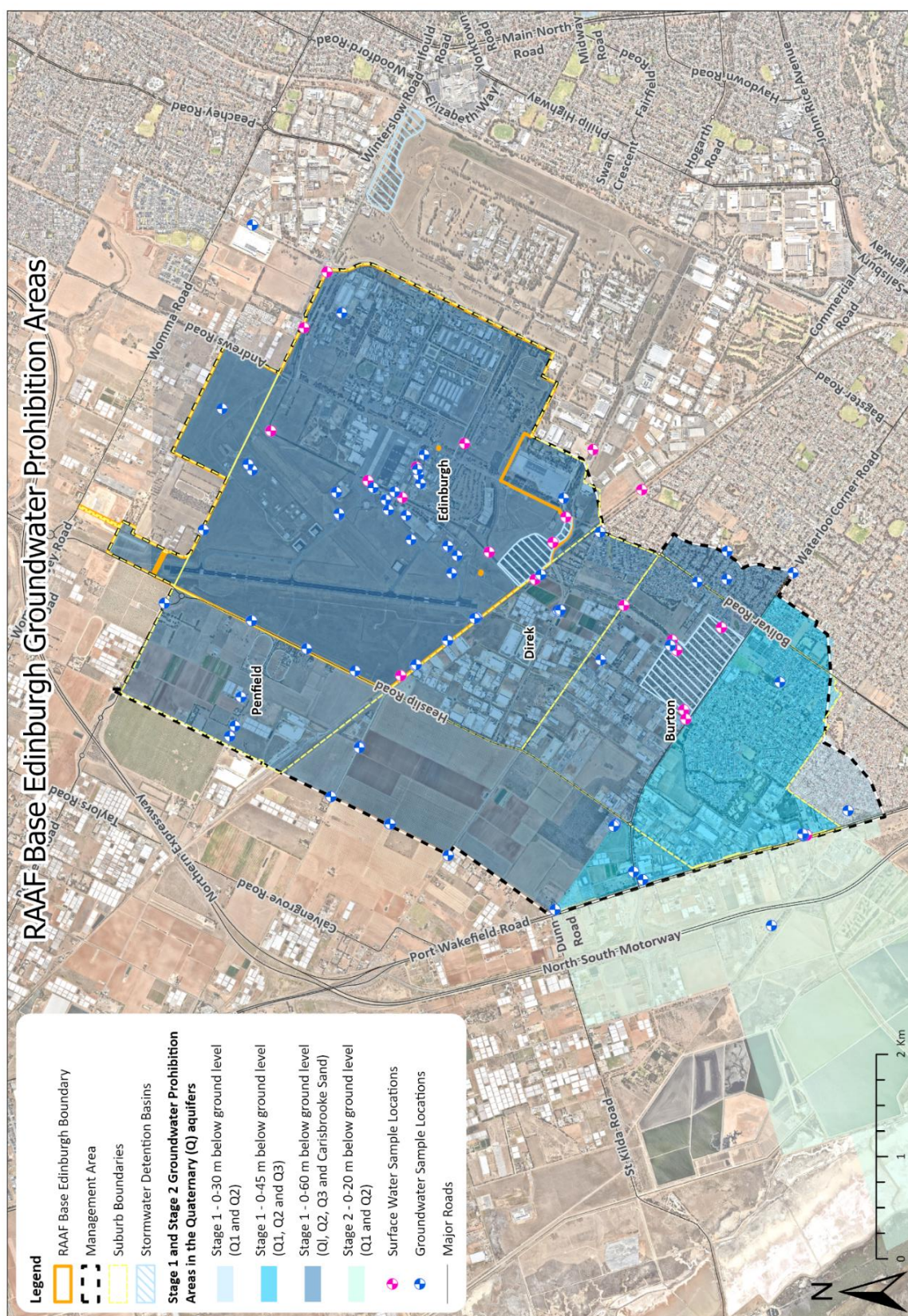
#### Next steps

Defence will continue to monitor PFAS on and around RAAF Base Edinburgh and keep the community informed.

#### For more information

All reports and plans for RAAF Base Edinburgh are available to view online: [www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-edinburgh](http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-edinburgh)





## Contact us



1800 333 362



[pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au)

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