



2025 PFAS Management Area Plan RAAF Base Edinburgh

KEY POINTS

- **Defence has revised the PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) updating how Defence will manage PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base Edinburgh.**
- **An independent site contamination auditor accredited by Environment Protection Authority South Australia (EPA SA) has reviewed and endorsed the revised PMAP.**
- **The EPA SA has established a Groundwater Prohibition Area to support community members to reduce their exposure to PFAS.**
- **The Groundwater Prohibition Area and revised PFAS Management Area Plan have been published 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 Edinburgh.

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 data collected during remediation and through implementing the RAAF Base Edinburgh Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

Background

In 2019, Defence completed detailed environmental investigations into PFAS contamination on and around RAAF Base Edinburgh. 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 Edinburgh where PFAS concentrations required further study or action.

In 2019, a Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment (HHERA) was also prepared to assess the PFAS exposure risks to the surrounding community.

The HHERA found there are potential elevated exposure risks if unlicensed bores are used to access groundwater from the quaternary aquifer for drinking or other domestic purposes. The Environment Protection Authority South Australia established a Groundwater Prohibition Area (GPA) to manage this risk. Further information about the GPA can be found on their website: www.engage.epa.sa.gov.au/edinburgh.

The PMAP (2019) identifies further studies or actions required to manage the risks from PFAS contamination leaving RAAF Base Edinburgh, based on the findings of the investigations and risk assessment.

Revised PFAS Management Area Plan

Since 2019, Defence has completed the following actions:

- remediation of more than 37,000 tonnes of soil across eight source areas.
- removal and off-base destruction of approximately 400 square metres of PFAS-contaminated concrete and bitumen.
- capping of contaminated materials where materials could not be excavated and treated due to critical underground services.
- remediation of more than 270 million litres of groundwater across five source areas, with more than 54 kilograms of PFAS removed to date.
- replacement of four groundwater bores in the shallow quaternary aquifers impacted by the establishment of the Edinburgh GPA. Four properties have been provided with deeper tertiary aquifer bores not affected by the GPA.
- ongoing monitoring to assess changes in PFAS concentrations in surface water and groundwater on and around RAAF Base Edinburgh.
- an engineering and design study for new waterproof liners in the wastewater management infrastructure connected to the hangar fire suppression systems.

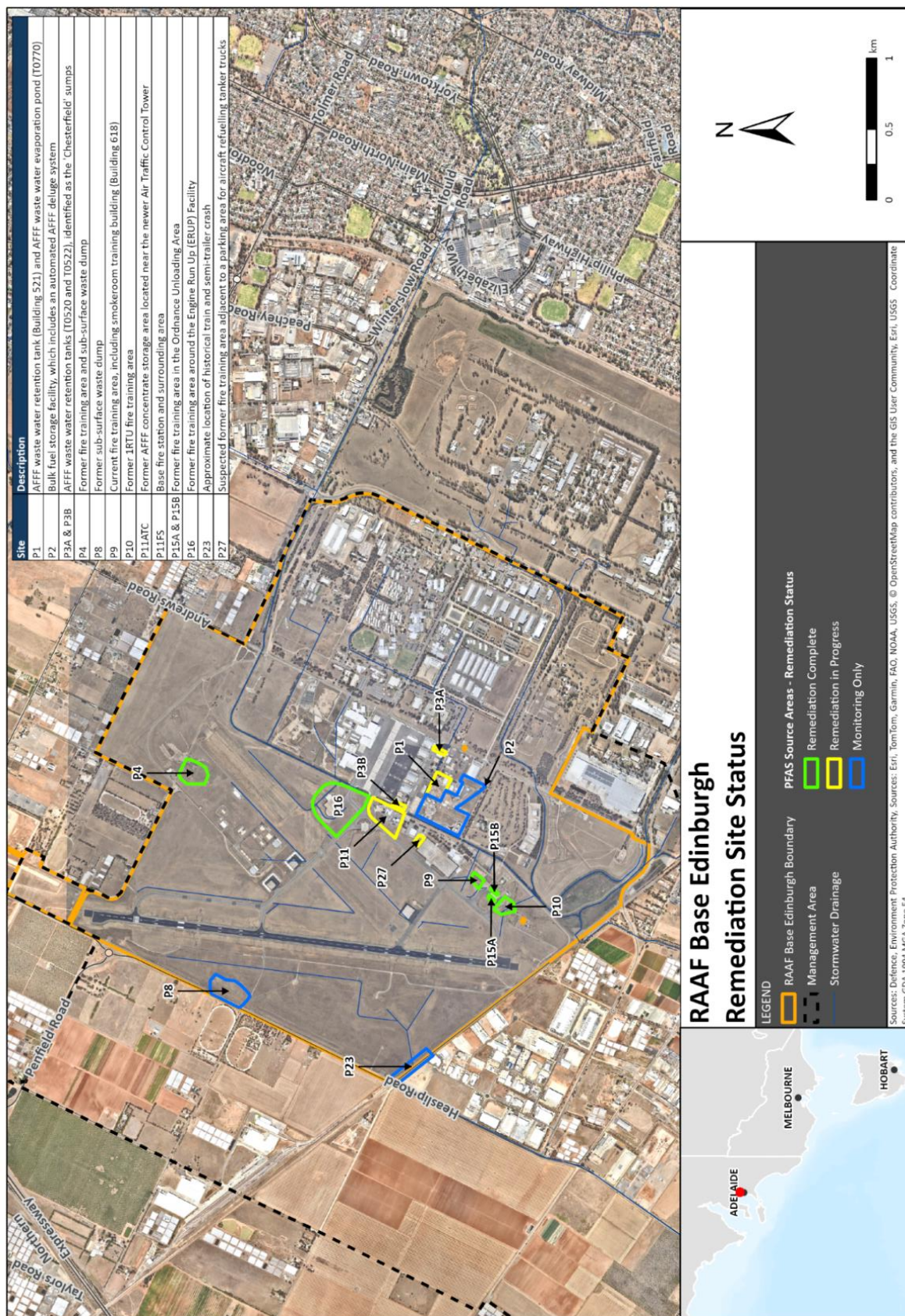
Next steps

Over the next 12-18 months Defence will:

- continue monitoring to assess changes in PFAS concentrations in surface water and groundwater
- continue groundwater remediation works
- complete remediation works of the wastewater management infrastructure connected to the on-base hangar fire suppression systems
- continue to 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



RAAF Base Edinburgh Remediation Areas

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Defence's PFAS
Investigation and
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