PFAS INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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Ongoing Monitoring Plan 2025

RAAF Base Tindal

KEY POINTS

❯ **Defence has updated the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Plan for RAAF Base Tindal and nearby areas.**

❯ **The Ongoing Monitoring Plan is regularly updated to reflect the latest sampling data, management actions and environmental settings.**

❯ **The Ongoing Monitoring Plan has been reviewed by a technical adviser who as a Northern Territory accredited site auditor.**

❯ **Sampling of groundwater, surface water and biota will continue.**

❯ **Defence will continue to provide property owners with sampling results. The results will be published in an Ongoing Monitoring Report unless requested by the property owner to be kept private.**

❯ **All plans and reports are available on the Defence website.**

What is an Ongoing Monitoring Plan?

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

This ensures Defence maintains an up-to-date understanding of any risk that the community may be exposed to from PFAS coming from the base. This understanding helps us work out the best way to manage 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 Tindal since 2021.

Defence monitors for PFAS on and around RAAF Base Tindal as a part of its PFAS Management Area Plan, 2019.

Ongoing Monitoring Plan and Ongoing Monitoring Report

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

The OMP also sets out what actions Defence will take if the sample results are significantly higher than previous results or are unexpected. These are called trigger levels.

Sampling results are compared against trigger levels and previous results to see if there are any changes where PFAS are found and at what levels. This tells us whether a new action is required.

Defence provides property owners with sample results. Depending on privacy requirements, the results will be published in an Ongoing Monitoring Report.

The July 2023 – April 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report for RAAF Base Tindal found that the levels of PFAS and the risk to the community have not changed over the monitoring period.

This means that the precautionary health advice issued by NT Health for the township of Katherine, Tindal Creek and Katherine River remains in place.

Changes to the Ongoing Monitoring Plan

In March 2025, Defence updated the OMP for RAAF Base Tindal. To update the plan, Defence consulted with its technical advisor, and accredited site auditor.

The key changes in the OMP include:

- Additional private bores to be included in the monitoring network
- Changes in sampling frequency for various groundwater and surface water locations to capture seasonal fluctuations between the wet and dry seasons.

Defence made these changes based on the data we already have, and what we'll need in future to continue to understand if PFAS risks to the community change.

Next steps

Defence will continue to monitor PFAS in the environment, and take action if required. As new remediation actions get underway, monitoring will be undertaken to assess their effectiveness.

The revised OMP is available on the Defence website at:

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

Contact us

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✉️ pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

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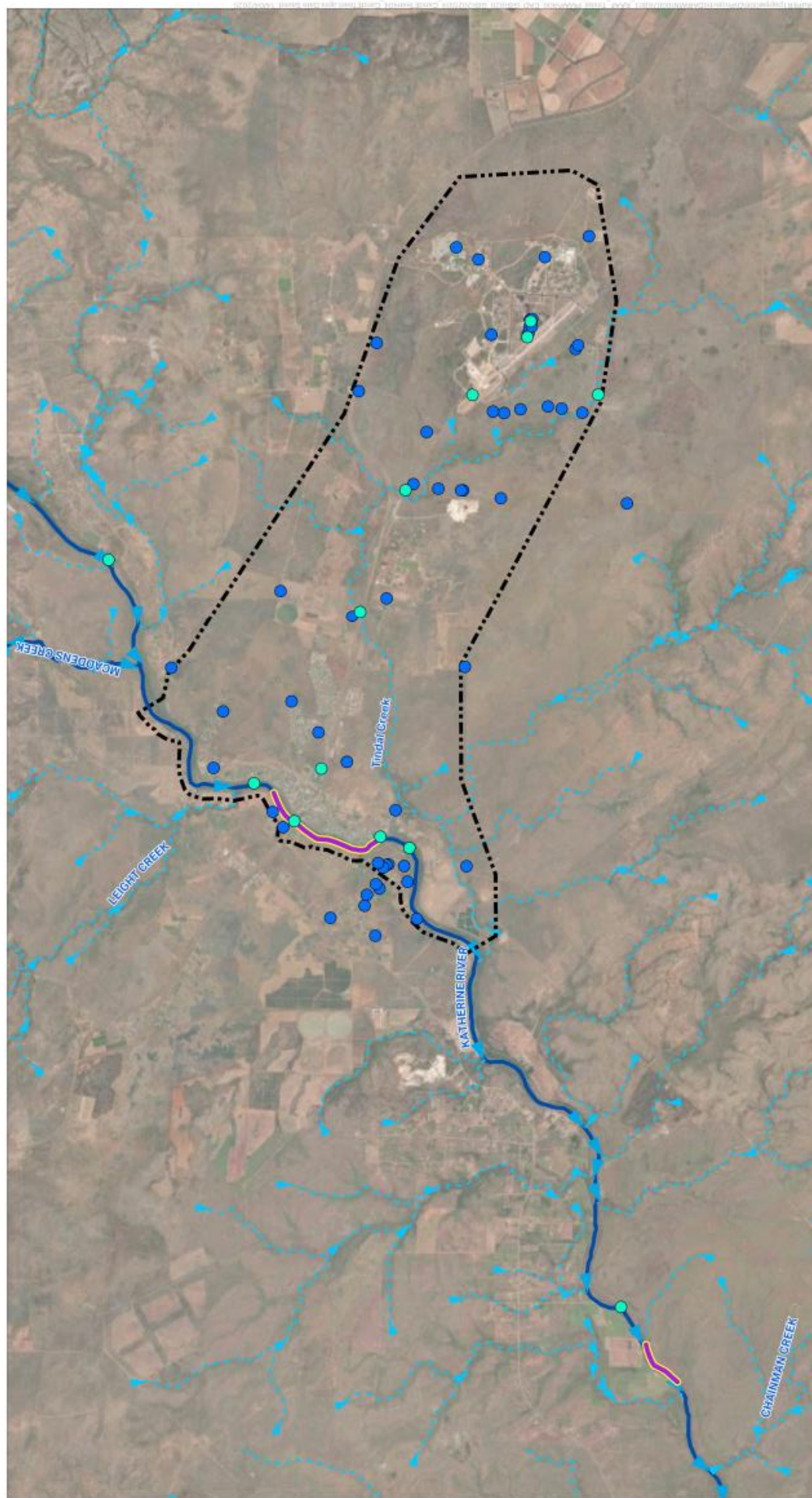
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MCADDENS CREEK

LEIGHT CREEK

Tindal Creek

KATHERINE RIVER

CHAINMAN CREEK

FIGURE F1: GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND BIOTA MONITORING LOCATIONS

Legend

Groundwater Management Area

Katherine River

Drainage

● Groundwater Monitoring Locations

● Surface Water Monitoring Locations

▬ Biota Sampling Locations

RAAF Base Tindal ongoing monitoring locations