



## Ongoing Monitoring Plan 2025

### RAAF Base Townsville

#### KEY POINTS

- Defence has updated the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) for RAAF Base Townsville and nearby areas.
- The OMP is regularly updated to reflect the latest sampling data, management actions, and environmental settings.
- Defence consults with its technical advisor (an accredited site auditor) and Queensland's Department of Environment, Tourism, Science, and Innovation (DETSI).
- Sampling of groundwater, sediment and surface water occurs annually, with permanent surface waters also sampled in the dry season.
- Defence will continue to provide property owners with sampling results. Depending on privacy requirements, the results will be published in an Ongoing Monitoring Report (OMR).
- All 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. groundwater, surface water, sediment), where the sampling will take place, and how often.

This ensures Defence maintains an up-to-date understanding of potential risks the community may be exposed to from PFAS coming from the base. This understanding helps us work out the best way to reduce and minimise that risk.

Defence regularly reviews and updates the OMP to make sure what, where, and how often we sample provides us with a good understanding of any change in PFAS risk profile.

#### Background

Defence has been monitoring per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and around RAAF Base Townsville since September 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 Townsville 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 the sample results are significantly higher than previously measured or are unexpected. These are called triggers.

The results of the sampling are compared with previous results and with the 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 June 2023-March 2024 OMR for RAAF Base Townsville found that the levels of PFAS risk for the community have not changed over the monitoring period.

#### Changes to the Ongoing Monitoring Plan

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

#### The key changes in the OMP include:

- Removing 6 on-base and 21 off-base groundwater monitoring wells and adding 9 on-base and removing 4 off-base surface water and sediment monitoring locations.
- Reducing groundwater, surface water, and sediment sampling to the wet season, but including dry season surface water sampling at 14 permanent waterbodies (i.e. Mundy Creek, Louisa Creek and Bohle River, and Three Mile Creek).
- Updating the data screening process to improve the understanding of potential changes in PFAS levels in groundwater and surface water.
- Adopting lower laboratory reporting limits at some on and off base monitoring locations as an initial response to the draft drinking water guidelines released by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2024.

Defence made these changes based on the data we already have, and what will be needed in the 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-townsville](http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-townsville)

#### Contact us



1800 333 362

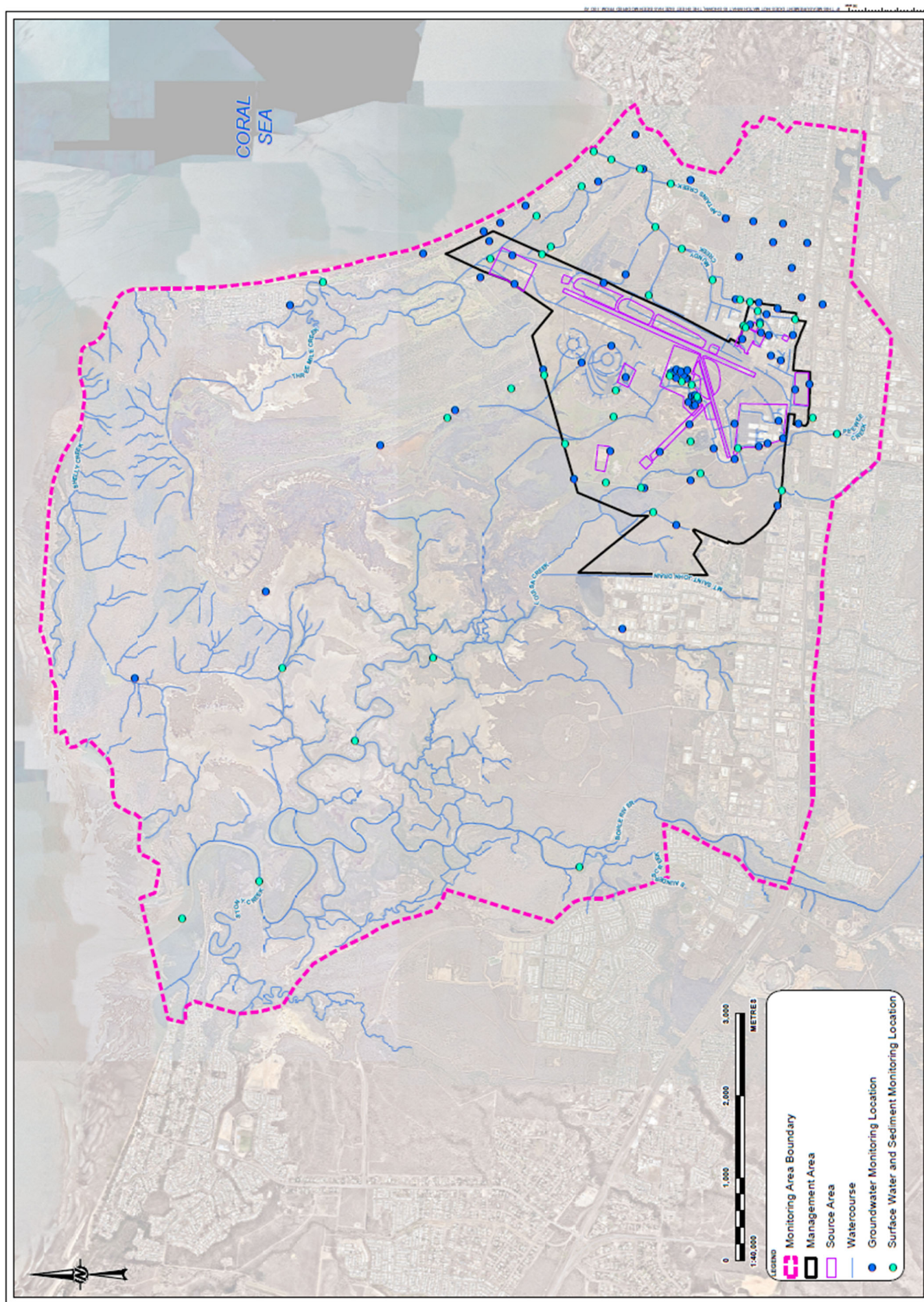


[pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au)

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







**RAAF Base Townsville Ongoing Monitoring Locations**