



2025 PFAS Management Area Plan

RAAF Base Townsville

KEY POINTS

- ▶ Defence has revised the PFAS Management Area Plan updating how Defence will manage PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base Townsville.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 RAAF Base Townsville.

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 RAAF Base Townsville Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

Background

In 2017, Defence completed detailed environmental investigations into PFAS contamination on and around RAAF Base Townsville. 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 Townsville, where PFAS concentrations required further study or action. These studies or actions were captured in the 2019 PMAP.

In 2018, 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 'potentially elevated exposure risk' was identified for people eating locally caught seafood and for on-base workers accidentally swallowing groundwater during dewatering and construction activities.

Based on the outcomes of the investigations and risk assessment, Defence identified further studies or actions were required to manage the risks from PFAS contamination leaving the base. These studies or actions were captured in the 2019 PMAP.

Revised PFAS Management Area Plan

Since 2019, Defence has completed the following actions:

- Remediation of the former fire training area.
- Long-term environmental management plan has been prepared.
- Completion of investigations to assess the amount of PFAS migrating from the three primary source areas.
- Remediation action plans have been prepared for fuel farm 2 and the fire station.

The following activities are ongoing or planned:

- Remediation at former fire training area
- Further sampling and investigation of historical fire training areas and historical stockpiles to inform remediation planning or off-base disposal.
- Data re-evaluation to understand if more investigation or remediation is required.
- Routine surface water, groundwater and sediment monitoring in accordance with the Ongoing Monitoring Plan.
- Undertake a Seafood Human Health Risk Assessment for seafood sourced within the estuarine catchments downstream of the base.

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/raaf-base-townsville

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.



