



## 2025 PFAS Management Area Plan

### RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and RAAF Base Point Cook

#### KEY POINTS

- **Defence has revised the PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) updating how Defence will manage PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and RAAF Base Point Cook.**
- **Defence's technical adviser, an independent contaminated land auditor accredited with the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA), has reviewed and endorsed the revised PMAP.**
- **Defence consulted with the EPA on the revised PMAP.**
- **To support community members and reduce their exposure to PFAS, the EPA has issued precautionary advice for Skeleton Creek. For more information, visit: [www.epa.vic.gov.au/17352-consumption-advice-recreationally-caught-fish](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/17352-consumption-advice-recreationally-caught-fish)**
- **The revised PMAP 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 PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and RAAF Base Point Cook.

The revised PMAP describes how management activities are progressing and where adjustment to our management approach is required.

Updates are informed by PFAS contamination data collected through implementing the RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and RAAF Base Point Cook Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

#### For more information

The revised PMAP is available on the Defence website at:

[www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-williams-laverton-raaf-base-point-cook](http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-williams-laverton-raaf-base-point-cook)

#### Background

In 2022, Defence completed detailed environmental investigations into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination on and around RAAF Base Williams, Laverton, and at RAAF Base Point Cook. Investigations found that most PFAS exist 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.

The investigations identified source areas on RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and RAAF Base Point Cook, where PFAS concentrations required further study or action to understand risk.

In 2022, a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) and Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) were conducted to assess the PFAS exposure risks to the community and environment surrounding RAAF Base Williams, Laverton. The HHRA and ERA factsheets are available to view on the Defence website.

These assessments identified that:

- People consuming fish and eels from Skeleton Creek may be exposed to PFAS
- PFAS posed a low risk to people who eat typical amounts of home grown produce within the Williams Landing area
- Animals coming into contact with contaminated soil and PFAS-affected waters in Skeleton Creek, Laverton RAAF swamp, southern ponds of Cheetham Wetlands and Sanctuary Lakes may be exposed to PFAS.

The 2022 PFAS Management Area Plan (PMAP) for RAAF Base Williams, Laverton outlines the further studies or actions necessary to manage the risks from PFAS contamination leaving RAAF Base Williams, Laverton, based on the outcomes of investigations and risk assessments.

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria issued precautionary advice for the consumption of eel and fish from Skeleton Creek to support community members and reduce their exposure to PFAS. For more information, visit: [www.epa.vic.gov.au/17352-consumption-advice-recreationally-caught-fish](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/17352-consumption-advice-recreationally-caught-fish)

#### Revised PFAS Management Area Plan

Since 2022, Defence has completed the following actions:

- Installation of signs along Skeleton Creek advising the community not to eat fish or eels caught from the lower catchment of Skeleton Creek
- The 2022 PMAP has been updated to include and combine RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and RAAF Base Point Cook
- In 2023, the Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) for collecting surface water and groundwater samples commenced at RAAF Base Williams, Laverton and in 2024 the OMP commenced at RAAF Base Point Cook.

The following activities are ongoing:

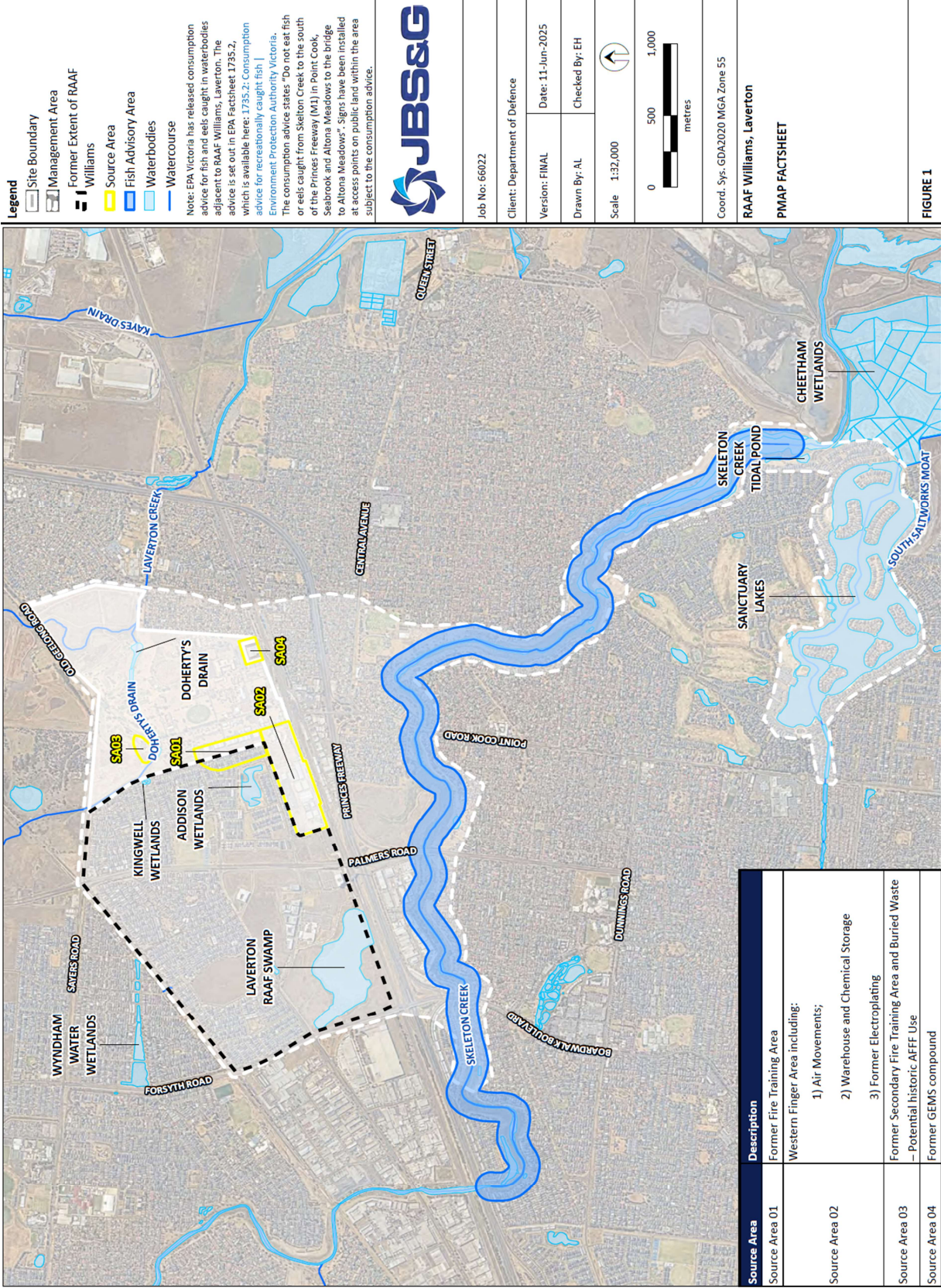
- Routine sampling of groundwater and surface water as part of the OMP
- A PFAS movement assessment to investigate PFAS concentration levels within the environment surrounding the bases
- A detailed Ecological Risk Assessment for RAAF Base Williams, Laverton as part of a review of the precautionary advice in place for surrounding areas
- A detailed Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment for RAAF Base Point Cook.

#### Next steps

Over the next 12-18 months Defence will:

- continue monitoring to assess changes in PFAS concentrations
- continue to keep the community informed.





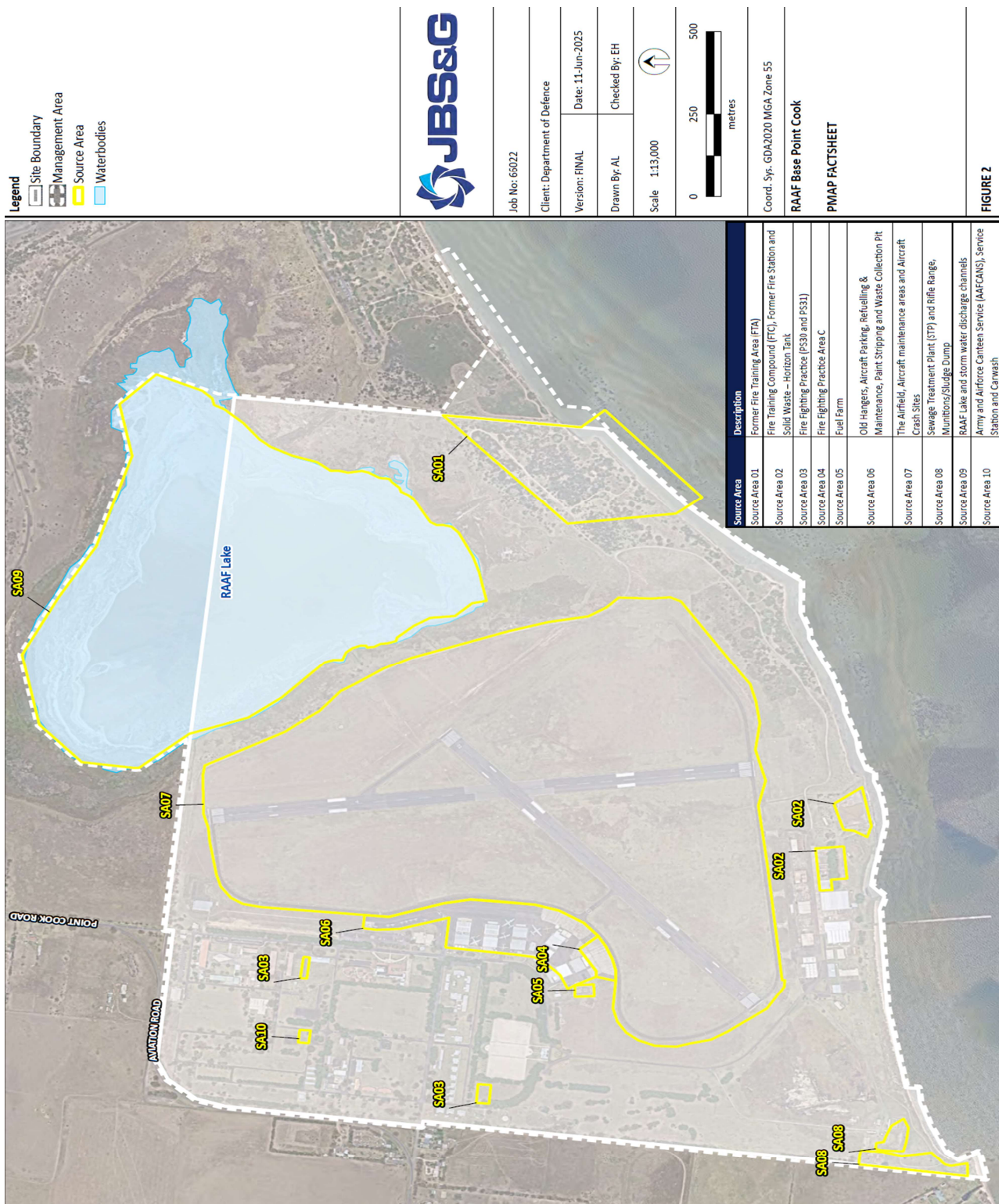




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# PFAS INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SERVICE  
COURAGE  
RESPECT  
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**RAAF Base Point Cook**

## Contact us



1800 333 362



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

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