



## January – December 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report

### RAAF Base Williamtown

#### KEY POINTS

- Defence undertakes monitoring on and around RAAF Base Williamtown to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in groundwater, surface water, sediment and aquatic biota (fish and prawns).
- Monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities.
- Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2019.
- The Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website.
- The potential exposure risks to people, plants and animals within the Williamtown Management Area remains unchanged.

#### What is an Ongoing Monitoring Report?

An Ongoing Monitoring Report collates and interprets PFAS sampling results from the Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

The Ongoing Monitoring Plan outlines what Defence is sampling (e.g. water, sediment, aquatic biota), 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 minimise that risk.

#### Precautionary advice

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has issued precautionary advice. More information is available at:

[www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/raaf-williamtown-contamination/williamtown-precautionary-advice](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/community-engagement/updates-on-issues/raaf-williamtown-contamination/williamtown-precautionary-advice)

#### Background

The Ongoing Monitoring Report includes PFAS results from groundwater, surface water, sediment and aquatic biota (fish and prawns) sampling undertaken between January to December 2024. Samples were collected from locations on and near RAAF Base Williamtown.



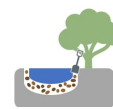

#### What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

The PFAS results from this monitoring period are similar to previous sampling results. PFAS levels in groundwater are decreasing near source areas following remedial works. The core of the plume continues to move south within the Primary Management Zone. Overall, the plume is stable and the shape is unchanged.

The potential exposure risks to people, plants and animals within the Williamtown Management Area remains unchanged and people are encouraged to follow the precautionary advice from the NSW EPA (link provided below). More information regarding the risks presented by PFAS can be found in the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment reports (link provided below).

#### Samples collected and analysed

From January to December 2024, the following samples were collected and analysed for PFAS:

Groundwater	Surface water	Sediment	Aquatic Biota
			
Groundwater is water beneath the surface that accumulates from rainfall. It can be seen in bores, wells or springs.	Surface water is water that collects on the ground and can be in the form of creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans and more.	Sediment is made of broken down remains of rocks, minerals, plants, and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.	Biota are the animals and plants within an area such as edible fish and crustaceans.
201 samples were collected from 133 groundwater monitoring locations.	49 samples were collected from 25 surface water locations.	52 samples were collected from 26 sediment locations	12 samples were collected from Fullerton Cove.

#### Next steps

Over the next 12 months Defence will:

- continue implementing PFAS management actions on and around RAAF Base Williamtown in accordance with the PFAS Management Area Plan. Over time this will contribute to the reduction of PFAS concentrations in the environment.
- continue regular monitoring to identify changes in PFAS concentrations and whether further actions are required to reduce potential exposure to the community. Sampling was completed in April 2025 and is scheduled for October 2025.
- continue to keep the community informed.

#### Further information

A full copy of the Ongoing Monitoring Report and other reports and information are available on the Defence website at: [www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-williamtown](http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-williamtown)

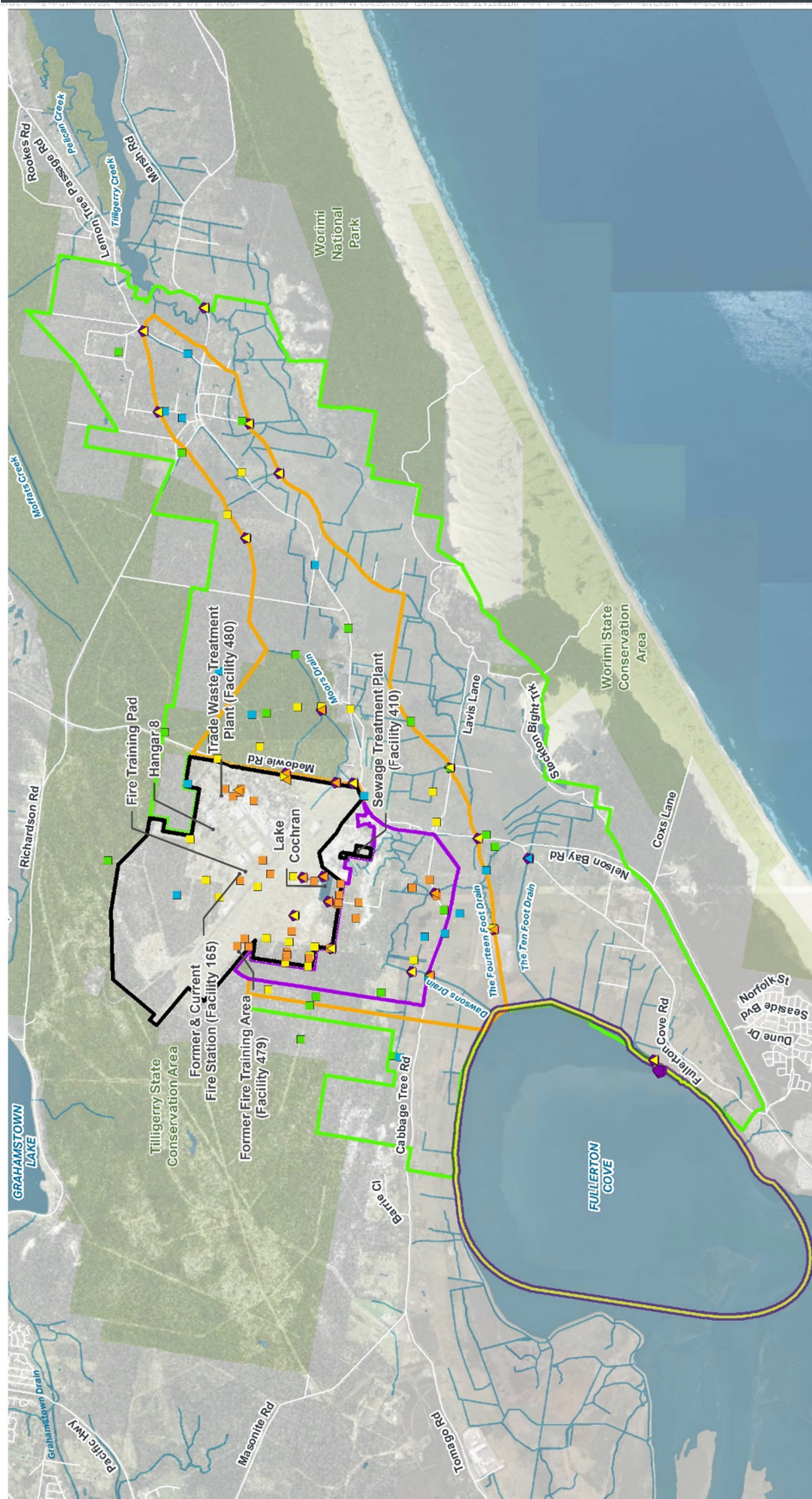
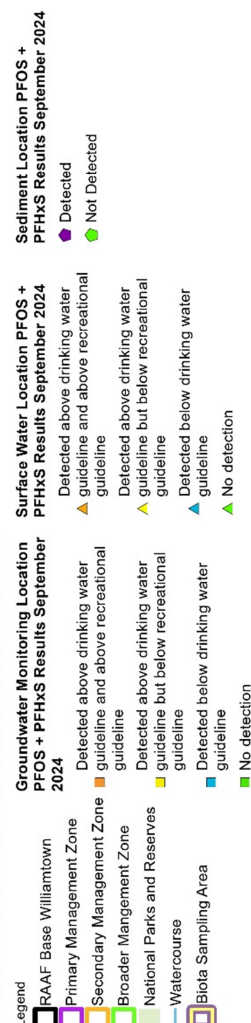


FIGURE F1: MONITORING LOCATIONS AND RESULTS



PROJECT  
PFAS OMP  
RAAF BASE WILLIAMTOWN (0908)  
ONGOING MONITORING REPORT (JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2024)

CLIENT  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE

Disclaimer: Spatial data used under licence from Land and Property Management Authority, NSW © 2015.  
AECOM makes no representations or warranties of any kind, about the accuracy, reliability, completeness, suitability or fitness for purpose in relation to the map content.  
Source:

## Contact us



1800 011 443

[williamtown.defence@aecom.com](mailto:williamtown.defence@aecom.com)

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



RAAF Base Williamtown sampling results