



April – December 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report

Bandiana Military Area

KEY POINTS

- Defence undertakes monitoring on and around Bandiana Military Area to understand per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in surface water, groundwater and sediment.
- Monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities.
- Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2021.
- The Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website.
- PFAS risks to people and the environment remains low and acceptable in accordance with the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment completed in 2020.

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. 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 minimise that risk.

Precautionary advice

In June 2021, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria issued precautionary advice regarding carp consumption from select areas of the Kiewa River. For further information, please refer to the EPA Victoria website: www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1735-2

Background




The Ongoing Monitoring Report covers surface water, groundwater and sediment sampling undertaken between April 2024 – December 2024, from locations on and around Bandiana Military Area. The report also compares the results of the new sampling data to past data collected since 2021.

What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

The levels of PFAS contamination on and around Bandiana Military Area fluctuated over time but were consistent with historical results with the exception of some increasing levels of PFAS in surface water and groundwater within known on-base source areas. Defence will continue to monitor these areas to identify if changing conditions require management actions.

The sampling results do not suggest any change in the potential human health and ecological risk from PFAS exposure from the 2020 investigations. For more information, see the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment on the Defence website.

Number of samples collected and analysed

Groundwater	Surface water	Sediment
		
Groundwater is water beneath the earth's surface. It often supplies 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 and plants that is moved and deposited to a new location.
76 samples collected from 44 groundwater monitoring locations.	82 samples collected from 53 surface water locations.	12 samples collected from 12 locations around waterways and drainage channels.

Next steps

Over the next 12 months Defence will continue:

- monitoring to further understand any changes in PFAS concentrations, with the next sampling schedule for May 2025.
- informing the community about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around Bandiana Military Area.
- planning for remediation of key PFAS source areas on-base is currently underway and remediation will commence in 2025.

Further information

A full copy of the Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website at: www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/bandiana-military-area

Contact us



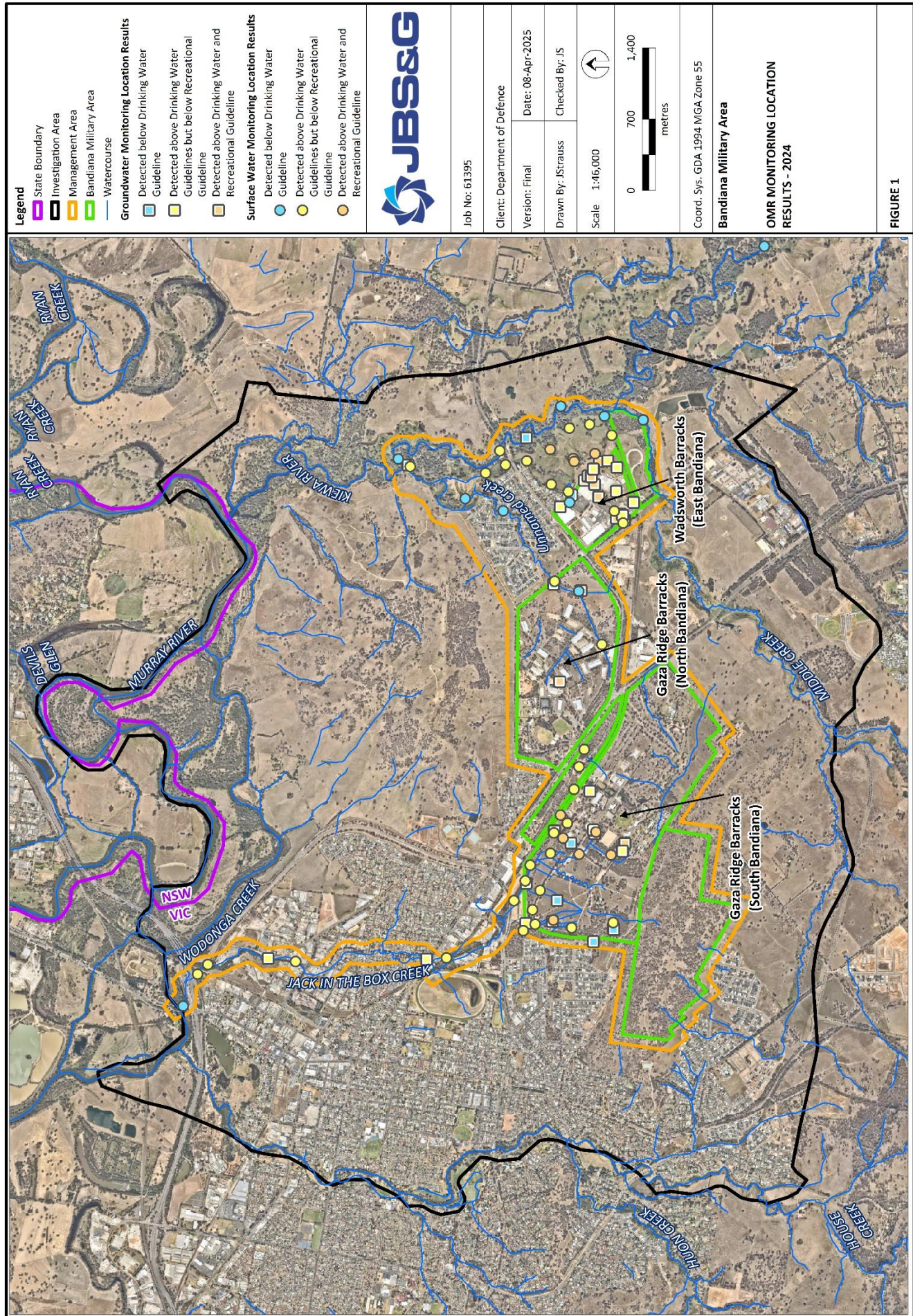
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Scan the QR code to find out more about Defence's PFAS Investigation and Management Program.





Bandiana Military Area Sampling Results