



January – December 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report Swartz Barracks

KEY POINTS

- Defence undertakes monitoring on and around Swartz Barracks to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in the environment.
- Monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities.
- Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2019.
- Analysis of 2024 sampling data was compared against the drinking water guidelines in NEMP 2.0, as relevant at the time of sampling.
- PFAS risks to people and the environment remain unchanged since the investigations undertaken in 2019.

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

The Queensland Government has general precautionary advice for residents living in or near PFAS contaminated areas.

For further information, please refer to the Queensland Government website:
www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/incidents/pfas/about

Background

The Ongoing Monitoring Report covers groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling undertaken between January – December 2024 from locations on and around Swartz Barracks. The report also compares the results of the new sampling data to past data collected since 2019 for analysis against the health-based guidance values current at the time, as outlined in NEMP 2.0 (HEPA 2020).




What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

The sampling results from the Ongoing Monitoring Report found no significant changes in PFAS concentrations. PFAS concentrations in groundwater, surface water and sediment were generally consistent with previous results.

As previously detected, the results indicate that there is migration of the contamination in groundwater to the west and southwest of Swartz Barracks.

The data collected during this monitoring event suggests that the risk profile to human health and the environment at Swartz Barracks, and within the management area, is unchanged. 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, plants, and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.
165 samples collected from 132 groundwater monitoring locations.	30 samples collected from 19 surface water locations.	35 samples collected from 22 locations.

Next steps

Over the next 12 months Defence will:

- continue monitoring to further understand any changes in PFAS concentrations, with the next sampling scheduled for October 2025.
- continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around Swartz Barracks.
- review the monitoring network and if required, add additional monitoring locations to the area west and southwest of Swartz Barracks.

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/swartz-barracks

Contact us



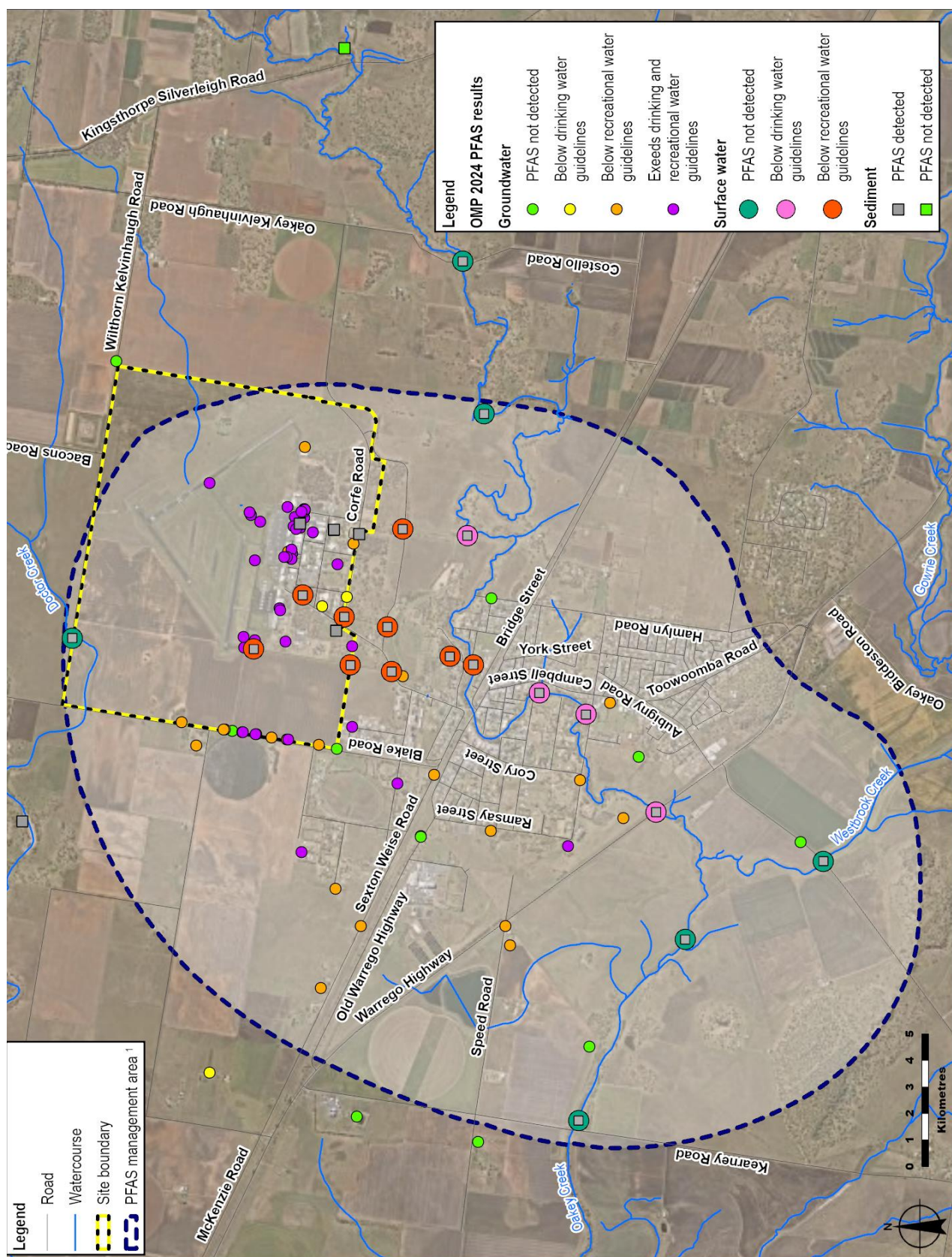
1800 333 362



pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

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The term 'PFAS management area' refers to the combined area of Swartz Barracks and the Oakey Management Area as defined in the PFAS management area plan.

Swartz Barracks sampling results January – December 2024

Please note: Health-based guideline values for drinking water relevant at time of sampling (2024) were from NEMP 2.0 (HEPA 2020)