



2025 Ongoing Monitoring Plan

RAAF Base East Sale

KEY POINTS

- **Defence has updated the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Plan for RAAF Base East Sale and nearby areas.**
- **The Ongoing Monitoring Plan is regularly updated to reflect the latest sampling data, management actions and environmental settings.**
- **In updating the Ongoing Monitoring Plan, Defence consults with an accredited site contamination auditor and with the Environment Protection Authority Victoria.**
- **Sampling of groundwater, sediment, surface water and biota will continue once a year.**
- **Monitoring results are published in an Ongoing Monitoring Report.**
- **All publicly available plans and reports are published on the Defence website.**

What is an Ongoing Monitoring Plan?

The Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) outlines what Defence is sampling (e.g. soil, water, sediment, biota), where the sampling will take place, and how often it will occur.

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.

Defence regularly reviews and updates the OMP to make sure what, where, and how often we sample provides us a good understanding of any change in PFAS risks.

All website links and contact details in this factsheet were correct at the time of publication but may change over time. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to www.defence.gov.au/pfas

Background

Defence has been monitoring per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and around RAAF Base East Sale since 2019. This monitoring is part of Defence's PFAS Management Area Plan for the base.

Ongoing Monitoring Plan and Ongoing Monitoring Report

The RAAF Base East Sale Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) outlines what Defence is sampling, where the sampling will take place, and how often it will occur.

The OMP also sets out what actions Defence will take if the sample results are significantly higher than previously or are unexpected. These are called triggers.

The results of the sampling are compared with previous results and with the triggers to see if there are any changes to where PFAS are found, or the levels of PFAS found. This tells us whether a new action is required.

Defence publishes the results in an Ongoing Monitoring Report (OMR). The 2021-2023 OMR for RAAF Base East Sale found that the levels of PFAS risk for the community have not changed over the monitoring period. This means that the precautionary advice for Heart Morass, Dowd Morass and Lower Latrobe River remains in place.

Changes to the Ongoing Monitoring Plan

In September 2025, Defence updated the OMP for RAAF Base East Sale, in consultation with an independent site contamination auditor accredited by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria. It is now available to view on the Defence website.

Key changes in the OMP:

- Reduction of sampling locations on the base, to reflect the low risk profile to base users of PFAS contamination in groundwater and surface water, and negligible PFAS migration via sediments to off-base receptors.
- Reduced frequency of monitoring events to occur annually instead of bi-annually.
- Adoption of updated Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG) to be more conservative of PFAS exposure risks to human health.
- Inclusion of co-located sediment and aquatic invertebrate sampling, which inhabit the bottom of water bodies, within the Heart Morass

Defence made these changes based on existing data and a forward projection of what data would inform future potential PFAS risks to the community.

Next steps

Defence will continue to monitor PFAS on and around RAAF Base East Sale and keep the community informed.

The updated OMP is available on the Defence website at:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-east-sale>

Contact us



1800 333 362



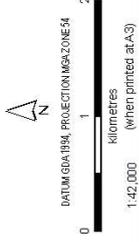
pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

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





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- LEGEND**
- On-Base Management Area
 - Off-Base Monitoring Area
 - Off-Base Monitoring Area: Heart
 - Morass
 - Open Drain
 - Closed Drain
 - Waterbodies
 - Channels and Drains
 - Rivers and Streams
 - ◆ Groundwater Sampling Location
 - ◆ Surface Water Sampling Location
 - ◆ Sediment Sampling Location
 - ◆ Biota Sampling Areas

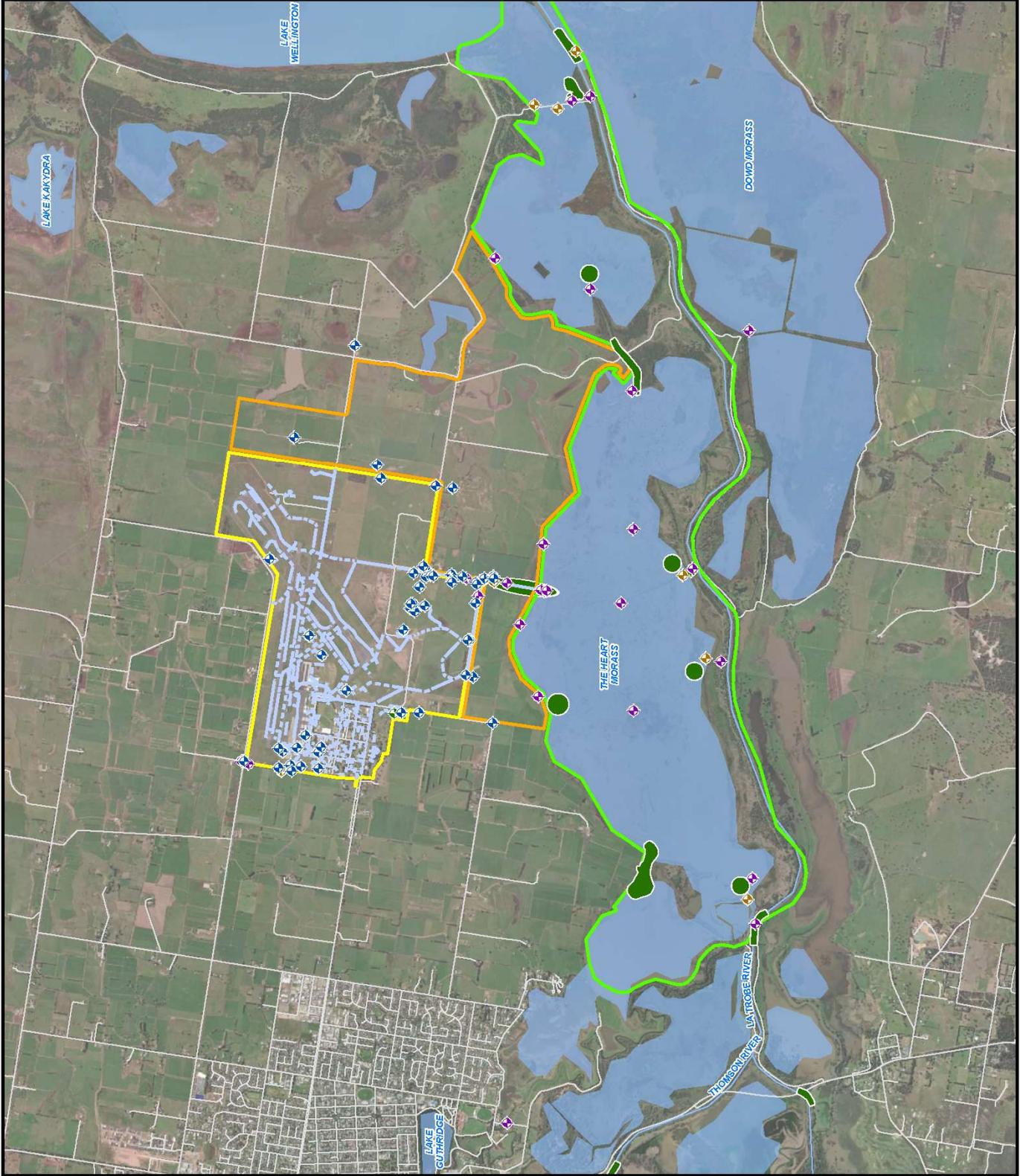
Note: Some sampling locations are not shown on this figure due to privacy reasons.



Data sources:
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Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP)
Summary of Sampling Locations

PFAS OMP Factsheet
0937 RAAF Base East Sale



RAAF Base East Sale ongoing monitoring locations