



2025 PFAS Management Area Plan RAAF Base East Sale

KEY POINTS

- ▶ **Defence has revised the PFAS Management Area Plan updating how Defence will manage PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base East Sale.**
- ▶ **Defence's technical adviser, an independent contaminated land auditor accredited with the EPA Victoria, has reviewed and endorsed the revised PFAS Management Area Plan.**
- ▶ **Defence consulted with the EPA Victoria on the revised PFAS Management Area Plan.**
- ▶ **To support community members and reduce their exposure to PFAS, the EPA Victoria has issued precautionary advice for the Heart Morass, Dowd Morass and the Lower Latrobe Rived. For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>**
- ▶ **The revised PFAS Management Area Plan is available on the Defence website.**

What is a PFAS Management Area Plan?

The PFAS Management Area Plan sets out Defence's activities to manage the risks from PFAS contamination on and from RAAF Base East Sale.

The revised PFAS Management Area Plan contains up-to-date information on how management activities are progressing and adjusts our management approach where required.

Updates are informed by data collected during remediation and through implementing the RAAF Base East Sale Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

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

In 2018, Defence completed detailed environmental investigations into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination on and around RAAF Base East Sale. Investigations determined that most PFAS are found 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. These investigations identified source areas on RAAF Base East Sale, where PFAS concentrations required further study or action.

In 2018, a Human Health Risk Assessment was prepared to assess the PFAS exposure risks to the surrounding community. This assessment found that PFAS exposure to most people was low, however 'potentially elevated exposure risk' was identified for people consuming recreationally caught duck, fish and eels from the Heart Morass, and consuming livestock raised on Defence owned grazing land more than once a week.

Based on the outcomes of the investigations and risk assessment, Defence identified further studies or actions were required to manage the risks from PFAS contamination leaving RAAF Base East Sale. These studies or actions were captured in the 2018 PFAS Management Area Plan.

Revised PFAS Management Area Plan

Since 2018, Defence has completed the following actions:

- Discontinued the use and remove redundant stock of legacy aqueous film forming foam containing PFAS (3M Lightwater formulation) at the base.
- Removal and thermal treatment of approximately 47,750 tonnes of PFAS contaminated material (i.e., soil, concrete, and asphalt).

The following activities are ongoing or planned:

- Progress the groundwater and drainage network study to further understand source areas and how PFAS is leaving these areas. This will help select remediation options.
- Continue the Ongoing Monitoring Program, including off-base sampling.
- Work with EPA Victoria to keep the community informed of precautionary advice.

Next steps

Over the next 12-18 months Defence will:

- Undertake planned remediation activities for key source areas.
- Complete a treatment technology trial to target PFAS leaving source areas.
- Undertake off-base sampling throughout July and October 2026 as part of the Ongoing Monitoring Program.
- Continue to keep the community informed.

For more information

The revised PFAS Management Area Plan is available on the Defence website at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-east-sale>

Contact us



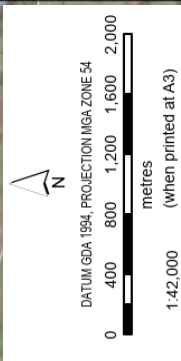
1800 333 362



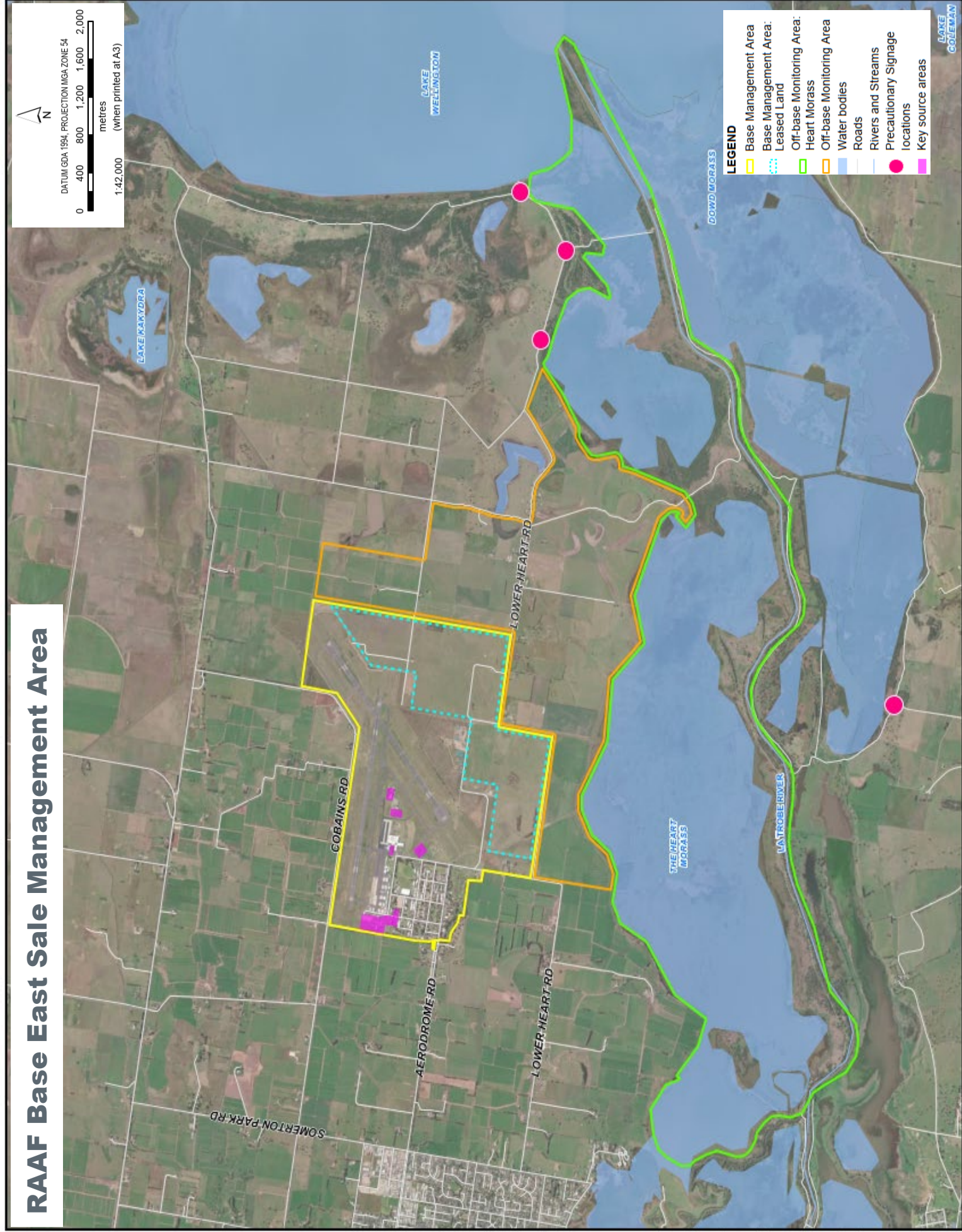
pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

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





RAAF Base East Sale Management Area



LEGEND

- Base Management Area
- Base Management Area: Leased Land
- Off-base Monitoring Area: Heart Morass
- Off-base Monitoring Area
- Water bodies
- Roads
- Rivers and Streams
- Precautionary Signage locations
- Key source areas