



HMAS *Stirling*

2021 Annual Interpretive Report (October 2020 – September 2021)

Defence monitors HMAS *Stirling* to understand per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in groundwater, surface water, pore water and sediment. Monitoring requirements are outlined in an Ongoing Monitoring Plan, and monitoring results inform PFAS management activities. Defence started ongoing monitoring at HMAS *Stirling* in November 2017.

What is an Annual Interpretive Report?

An Annual Interpretive Report (AIR) collates and interprets PFAS sampling results from the ongoing monitoring events.

Annual Interpretive Report (2020-2021)

This report covers groundwater, surface water, pore water and sediment sampling conducted between October 2020 and September 2021, from locations on HMAS *Stirling*. The report compares the results of the new sampling data with historical data.

What does the Annual Interpretive Report tell us?

Sampling results indicate that PFAS contamination levels in groundwater, surface water, pore water and sediment were consistent with historical results.

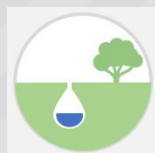
Results suggest PFAS is likely to be slowly moving towards the coastline through groundwater and surface water before being diluted.

Defence is continuing to monitor in this area to identify any changes over time.

The report findings do not suggest a change in any potential exposure risks outlined in the HMAS *Stirling* PFAS Management Area Plan.

Number of samples collected and analysed October 2020 – September 2021

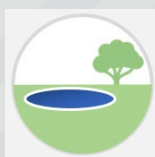
GROUNDWATER



Groundwater is water beneath the earth's surface. It often supplies bores, wells or springs.

237 samples collected from 61 groundwater monitoring locations.

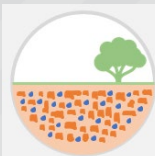
SURFACE WATER



Surface water is water that collects on the ground and can be in the form of creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans and more.

112 samples collected from 28 surface water locations.

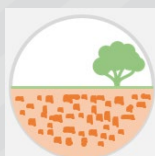
PORE WATER



Pore water is water that is present between individual grains of sand in the ground.

156 samples collected from 39 pore water locations.

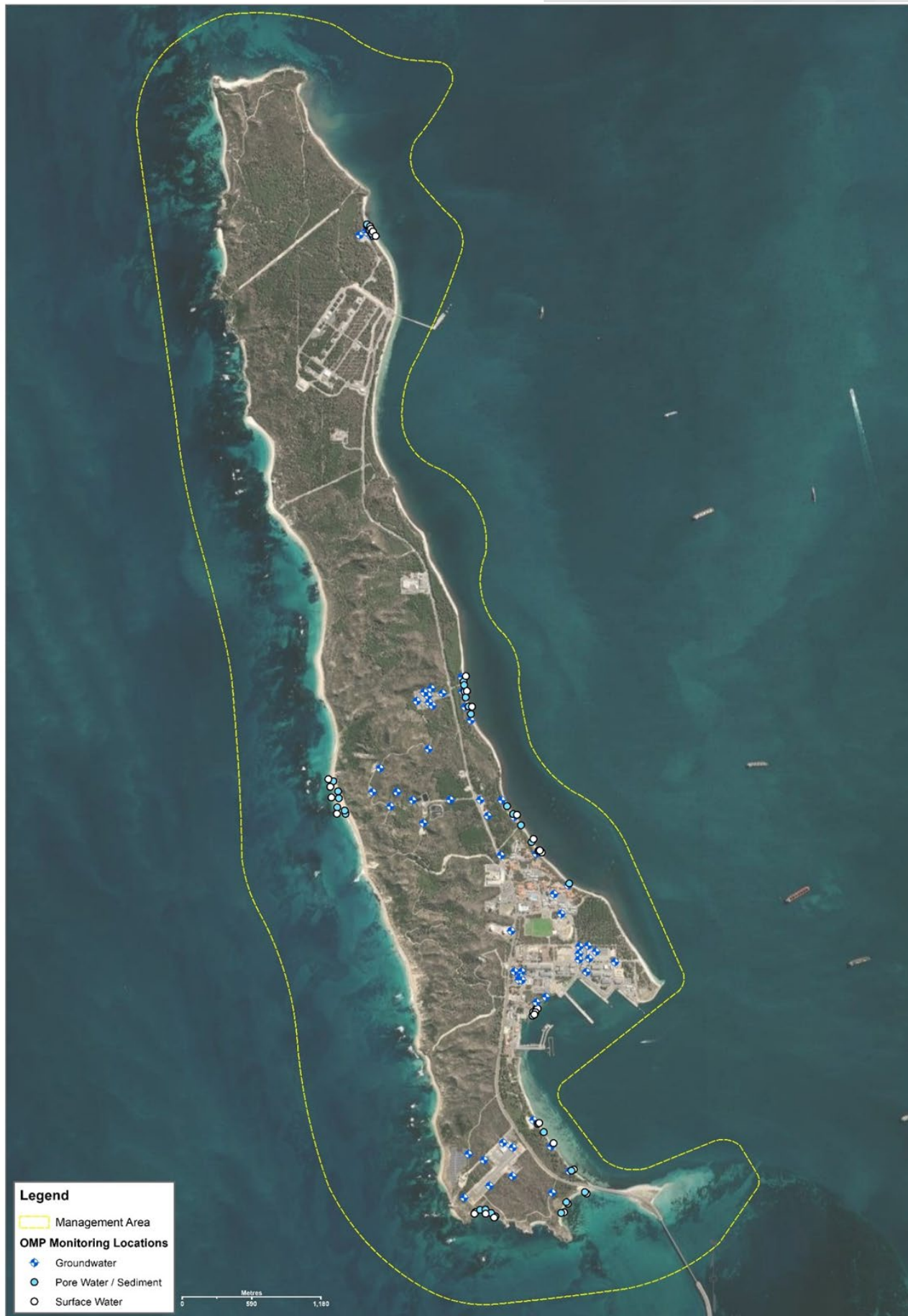
SEDIMENT



Sediment is made of broken down remains of rocks, minerals, plants and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.

156 samples collected from 39 sediment locations.

Refer to the map of the HMAS *Stirling* PFAS Management Area below, showing groundwater, surface water, pore water and sediment sampling locations.



HMAS Stirling PFAS Management Area

Groundwater, surface water, pore water and sediment monitoring locations



Next steps

Defence will continue monitoring groundwater, surface water, pore water and sediment at HMAS *Stirling* to understand any changes in PFAS concentrations that may appear over time.

Read the full HMAS *Stirling* 2021 Annual Interpretive Report

Scan the QR code below to access the report via the HMAS *Stirling* webpage:



Or, use the link below to access the Annual Interpretive Report:



www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/hmas-stirling-garden-island

Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)

For translation assistance, TIS National provides interpreting services 24 hours a day via telephone from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call*.



For more information contact 131 450 or visit: www.tisnational.gov.au

*Calls from mobile phones may attract a higher rate.

Keeping you informed

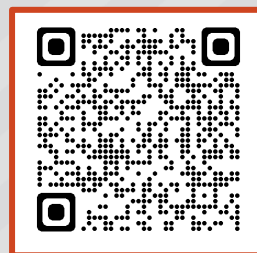
Defence will continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS at HMAS *Stirling*.

Looking for more information?



Scan the QR code below to find out more about Defence's PFAS Investigation and Management program or visit:

<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/location-s-property/pfas/defence-approach>



Alternatively, you can contact:



1800 333 362



pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

Media enquiries



Media enquiries should be directed to Defence Media via email at:

media@defence.gov.au