



December 2023 – November 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report HMAS Cerberus

KEY POINTS

- Defence undertakes monitoring on and around HMAS Cerberus to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in surface water and groundwater.
- Monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities.
- Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2019.
- 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 final site condition report published in 2025.

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. surface water and groundwater), 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.

Background

The Ongoing Monitoring Report covers surface water and groundwater sampling undertaken between December 2023 – November 2024, from locations on and around HMAS Cerberus. The report also compares the results of the new sampling data to past data collected since 2019.

What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

Between December 2023 and November 2024, the levels of PFAS contamination on and surrounding HMAS Cerberus were within historic ranges, except for increasing trends in the central portion of the base operational area and downgradient of the former fire training ground. Decreasing concentrations were recorded within surface water and groundwater in various other parts of the base.

In 2025, the final site condition report, which considered the OMP data from 2023 and 2024, determined that risks to human and ecological health was low and acceptable. For more information, see the final site condition report on the Defence website.

Number of samples collected and analysed

Groundwater	Surface water
	
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.
146 samples collected from 51 groundwater monitoring locations.	90 samples collected from 34 surface water locations.

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 November 2026.
- continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around HMAS Cerberus.

Further information

A full copy of the Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website at: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/hmas-cerberus>

Contact us



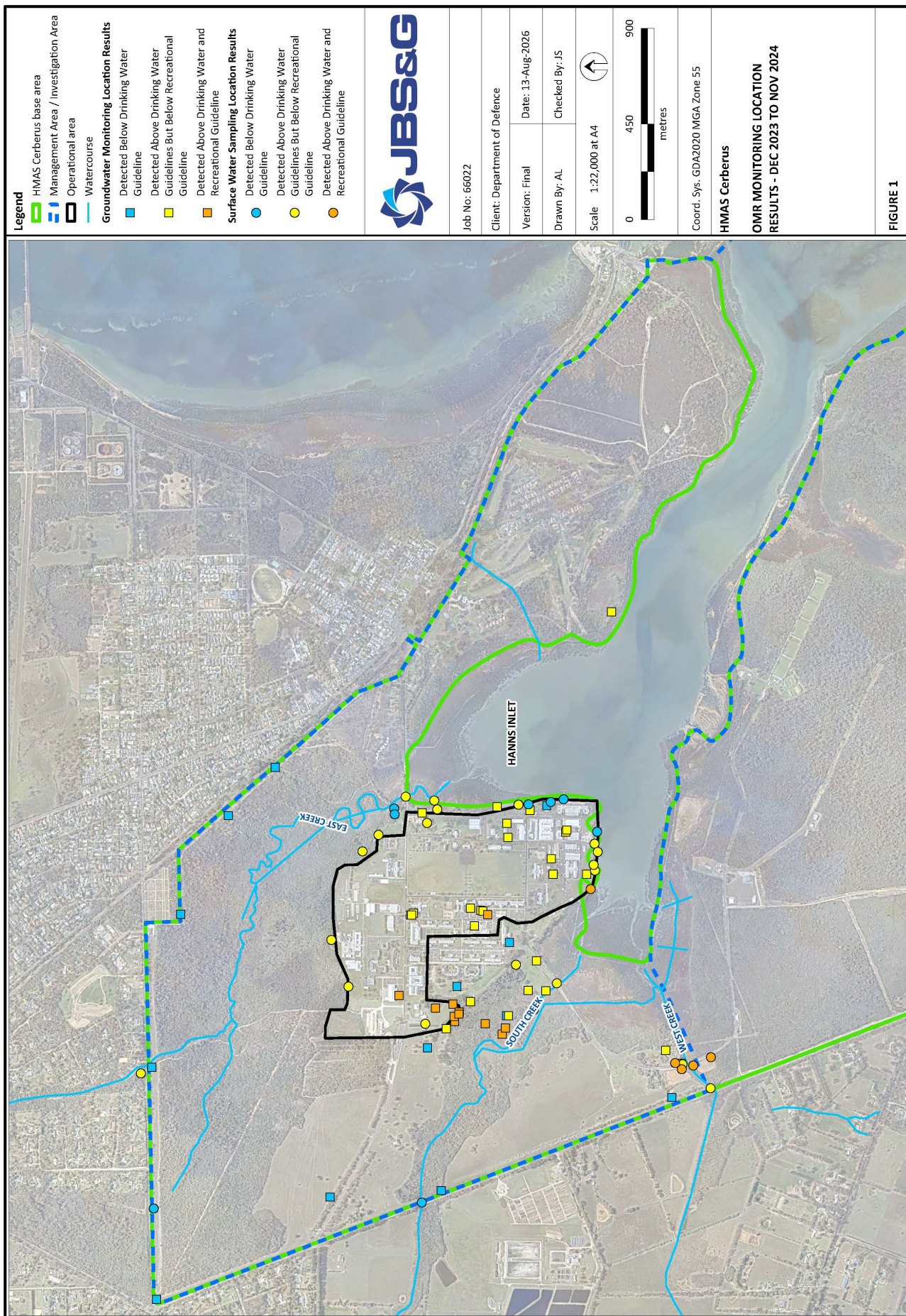
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Scan the QR code to find out more about Defence's PFAS Investigation and Management Program.





HMAS Cerberus sampling results