



November – December 2024 Ongoing Monitoring Report Factsheet RAAF Base East Sale

KEY POINTS

- Defence undertakes monitoring on and around RAAF Base East Sale to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in groundwater, surface water and sediment.
- Monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities.
- Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2018.
- The Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website.
- PFAS risks remain unchanged to people and the environment, consistent with the human health and ecological risk assessment in 2018.

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, 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

In June 2021, the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria issued precautionary advice regarding waterfowl, fish and eel consumption from the Heart Morass, Dowd Morass and State Game Reserves. For further information, please refer to the EPA Victoria website:

[Consumption advice for recreationally caught fish | epa.vic.gov.au](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/consumption-advice-for-recreationally-caught-fish)
[Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) | epa.vic.gov.au](https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas)

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

The Ongoing Monitoring Report covers the annual water and sediment sampling undertaken between November – December 2024, from locations on and around RAAF Base East Sale. The report also compares the results of the new sampling data to past data collected since 2018.

What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

The levels of PFAS contamination on and around RAAF Base East Sale fluctuated over time but were consistent with historical results. PFAS levels in surface water and groundwater are continuing to increase at the southeastern base boundary, which is the primary discharge point and transport pathway towards the Heart Morass and off-base properties. Defence will continue to monitor these areas to identify if changing conditions require management actions.

The sampling results do not suggest any change in the potential human health and ecological risk from PFAS exposure since the 2018 investigation, and a 2024 risk assessment review concluded that the risk profile remains valid. For more information, see the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment available 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 and plants that are moved and deposited to a new location.
68 samples collected from groundwater wells.	46 samples collected from waterways and wetlands.	38 samples collected from waterways and wetlands.

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 November 2025.
- Informing the community about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around RAAF Base East Sale.
- Planning for remediation of key source areas on-base is currently underway to reduce off-base migration of PFAS.

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/raaf-base-east-sale

Contact us



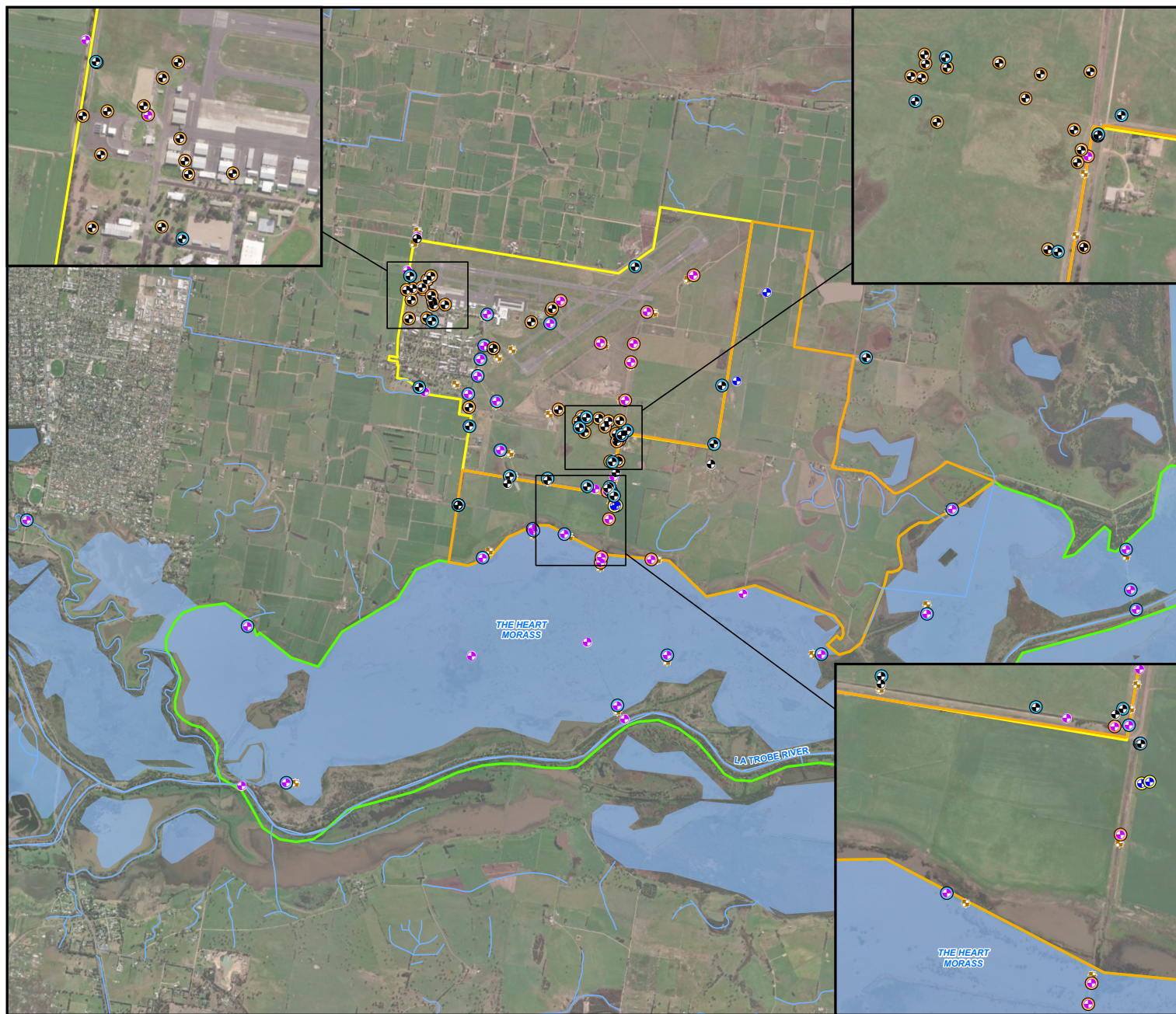
1800 333 362



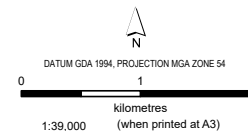
pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

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





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LEGEND

- Base Boundary
- Off-Base Monitoring Area: Heart Morass
- Off-Base Monitoring Area
- Watercourse
- Waterbodies
- Groundwater Sampling Location
- Potable (POT) water sample location
- Surface Water Sampling Location
- Sediment Sampling Location
- Results above adopted drinking water criteria
- Results above adopted Ecological criteria
- Results above adopted Human Health and Ecological criteria

	PFAS Substances				
	Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)	Perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS)	Perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	Sum of PFHxS and PFOS
	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L
Adopted Human Health Criteria					
NHMRC 2025 Drinking Water (POT only)	0.2	0.008	0.03	1	
PFAS NEMP 2020 Recreational Water	10	2	2		2
Adopted Ecological Criteria					
PFAS NEMP 2020 Freshwater 99%	19				
ANZG Toxicant Default Guideline Freshwater 99%		0.02			

OMR Monitoring Location Results - 2024

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