Australian Government
Defence

PFAS INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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June 2024 – May 2025 Ongoing Monitoring Report

RAAF Base Tindal

KEY POINTS

- **Defence undertakes monitoring on and around RAAF Base Tindal to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in groundwater, surface water and biota (fish and crustaceans in Katherine River).**
- **Monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities.**
- **Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2018.**
- **The Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website.**
- **Risks to humans and the environmental remain unchanged.**

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. soil, water, sediment), 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

Northern Territory (NT) Health has issued precautionary advice for frequent consumption of wild caught fish, shellfish and crustaceans from Katherine River and Tindal Creek. Fo further information, please refer to 'Fishing in Katherine' fact sheet via: Fishing in Katherine.

Background

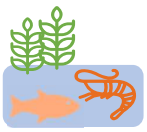
The Ongoing Monitoring Report covers groundwater, surface water and select biota sampling undertaken between June 2024 – May 2025, from locations on and around RAAF Base Tindal. The report also compares the results of the new sampling data to past data collected since 2017.

What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

Sampling data indicates that the levels of PFAS contamination in groundwater were consistent with historical results. Results suggest that plume size is unchanged, except for Cossack, where the plume may be migrating westward and north. PFAS in groundwater is seasonally influenced, with higher concentrations being detected during the wet season. Surface water results show that concentrations have decreased in Tindal Creek and remain unchanged in Katherine River and Katherine Hot Springs. Aquatic biota results remain similar to previous conditions.

The exposure risk status remains unchanged. For more information, see the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment report on the Defence website.

Number of samples collected and analysed

Groundwater	Surface water	Biota
		
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.	Biota are the animals and plants within an area such as edible fish and crustaceans.
213 samples collected from 50 groundwater monitoring locations.	**23 samples collected from 13 surface water locations.**	**40 samples collected from two locations within Katherine River**

Next steps

Over the next 12 months Defence will:

- Continue monitoring to further understand any changes in PFAS concentrations throughout the 2025-2027 period.
- Continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around RAAF Base Tindal.
- Defence will continue monitoring groundwater, surface water and biota on and around RAAF Base Tindal to understand any changes in PFAS concentrations that may appear over time.

Further information

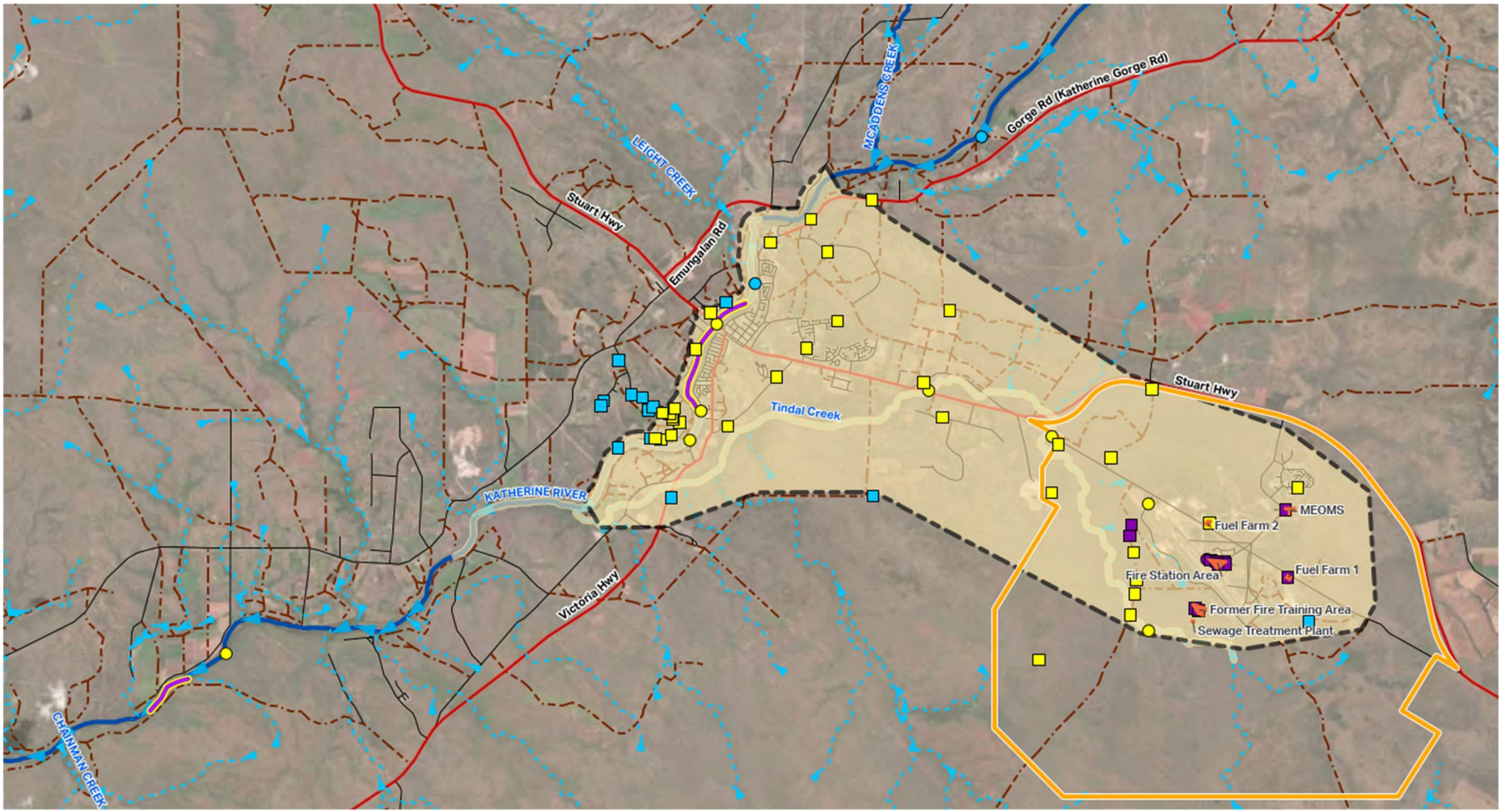
A full copy of the Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website at: RAAF Base Tindal | About | Defence

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.



Legend

- RAAF Base Tindal
- RAAF Base Tindal Management Area
- Source Areas
- Highway
- Road
- Track
- Katherine River
- Drainage
- Biota Sampling Locations

Groundwater Monitoring Location Results

- Detected below drinking water guideline
- Detected above drinking water guideline but below recreational guideline
- Exceeds recreational guideline

Surface Water Monitoring Location Results

- Detected below drinking water guideline
- Detected above drinking water guideline but below recreational guideline
- Exceeds recreational guideline

RAAF Base Tindal sampling results

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