



2025 Ongoing Monitoring Report and Updated Ongoing Monitoring Plan RAAF Base Williamtown

KEY POINTS

- **PFAS is short for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. They are a group of chemicals used historically in firefighting foams at RAAF Base Williamtown for training and operational purposes.**
- **Defence monitors for PFAS in groundwater, surface water, sediment and fish.**
- **Monitoring results are used to ensure people's exposure to PFAS remains low.**
- **The most recent results are presented in the 2025 Ongoing Monitoring Report on the [Defence website](#).**
- **The report concludes that risks to people remain low as long as they follow the precautionary advice issued by the NSW EPA.**

What is an Ongoing Monitoring Report and an Ongoing Monitoring Plan?

An Ongoing Monitoring Report collates and interprets PFAS sampling results from the Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP).

The OMP outlines what Defence is sampling (e.g. water, sediment), where the sampling will take place, and how often. The OMP also sets out what actions Defence will take if the sample results are significantly higher than previously or are unexpected.

Ongoing monitoring 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.

Further information

Full copies of the 2025 Ongoing Monitoring Report and updated Ongoing Monitoring Plan are available on the Defence website at: www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-williamtown

What is the Ongoing Monitoring Report?

The Ongoing Monitoring Report includes PFAS results from groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling undertaken between January 2025 to December 2025.

Samples were collected from locations on and around RAAF Base Williamtown.

It looks at concentrations of PFAS in surface waters (such as drains) and in groundwater. Once every two years samples are also collected from fish and prawns to see changes in PFAS concentrations.

What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

- The PFAS results from 2025 are very similar to previous years.
- PFAS levels in groundwater are decreasing near source areas on base as a result of remediation.
- PFAS levels are higher in groundwater south of the base within the Primary Management Zone. Defence is in the process of installing a new pipeline to extract PFAS contaminated groundwater before it enters Leary's Drain and transport it back to a water treatment plant at RAAF Base Williamtown.
- The potential exposure risks from PFAS on and around RAAF Base Williamtown are managed by precautionary advice issued by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. Further information may be found on the [Defence website](#).

Number of samples collected and analysed

From January to December 2025, the following samples were collected and analysed for PFAS:

Groundwater	Surface water	Sediment
		
Groundwater is water beneath the surface that accumulates from rainfall. It can be seen in 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, plants, and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.
210 samples were collected from 144 groundwater monitoring locations.	51 samples were collected from 25 surface water locations.	52 samples were collected from 26 sediment locations.

Updated Ongoing Monitoring Plan

The monitoring program is regularly updated to reflect the latest sampling data, management actions and environmental conditions.

Next steps

Over the next 12 months Defence will:

- continue to implement the OMP and undertake routine monitoring of surface water, groundwater and sediment on and around RAAF Base Williamtown
- conduct fish and prawn sampling in Fullerton Cove in 2026 to assess PFAS concentrations
- continue to inform the community about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around RAAF Base Williamtown.

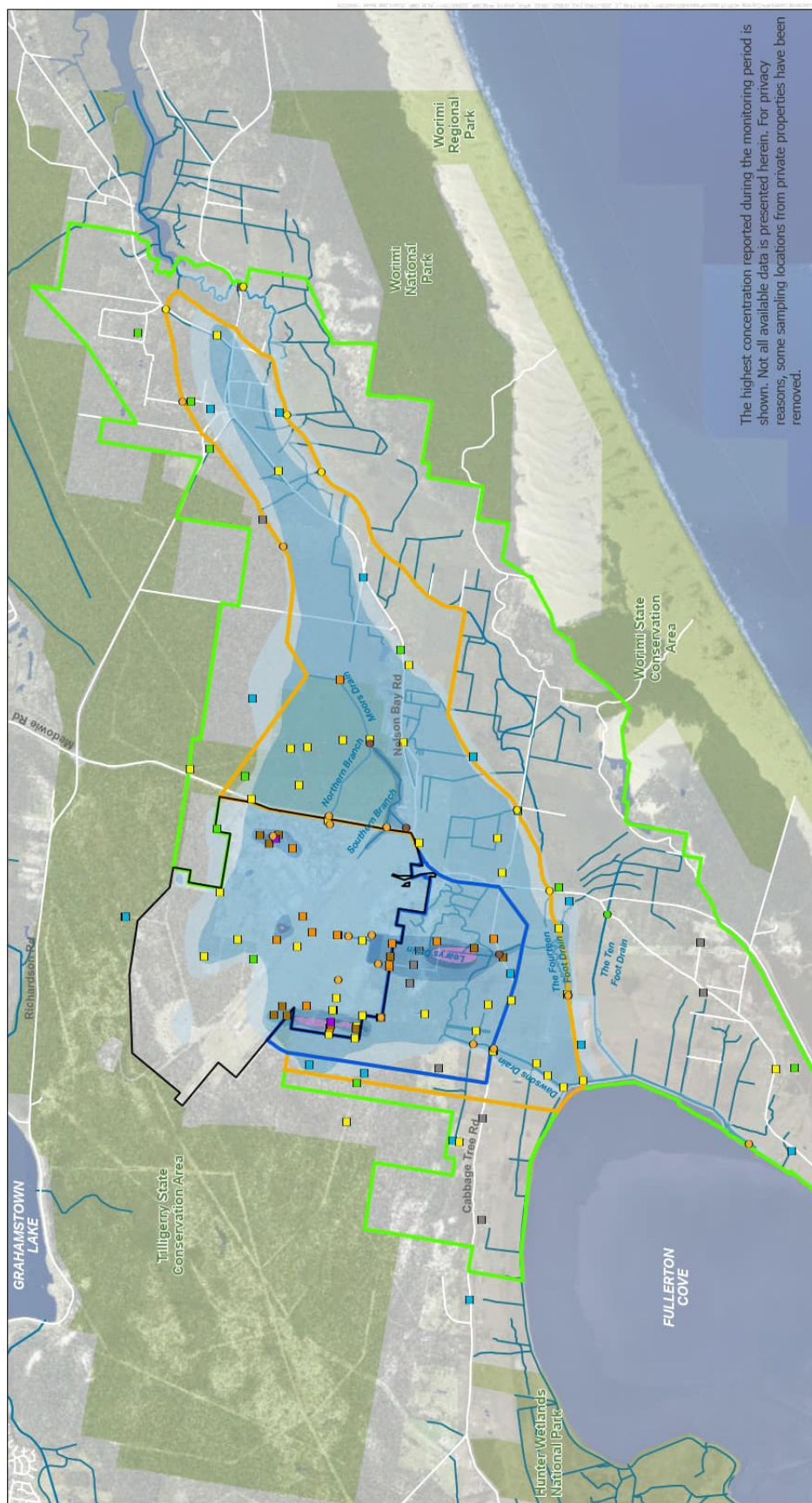
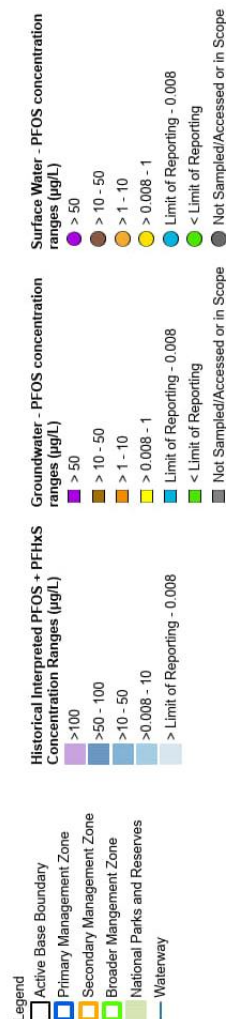


FIGURE F21: INFERRED EXTENT OF GROUNDWATER IMPACTS - PFOS



AECOM

PROJECT NAME
PFAS OMP

REPORT NUMBER
Ongoing Monitoring Report - 2025
RAAF Base Williamtown (0908)

PROJECT NUMBER
60739111

CLIENT
Department of Defence

DATE
2025

Notes: The inferred extent of groundwater PFAS impacts is presented as a general indication only and is not intended to be used for site-specific decision making. The inferred extent of groundwater PFAS impacts is based on historical data (2007 - 2021) and is subject to change as more data is collected.

RAAF Base Williamtown sampling results