Australian Government
Defence

PFAS INVESTIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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December 2023 – September 2025 Ongoing Monitoring Report

HMAS Stirling

KEY POINTS

- **Defence undertakes monitoring on and around HMAS Stirling to understand per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in groundwater, surface water, porewater and sediment.**
- **Monitoring results inform PFAS management activities.**
- **Defence started ongoing monitoring in 2017.**
- **The Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website.**
- **PFAS risks to people and the environment remain unchanged since monitoring started.**

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. 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.

Further information

A full copy of the Ongoing Monitoring Report is available on the Defence website at: defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/stirling-garden-island

Background

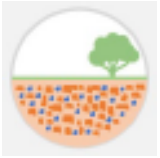
The Ongoing Monitoring Report covers groundwater, surface water, porewater and sediment sampling undertaken between December 2023 and September 2025 from locations on and around HMAS Stirling. The report also compares the results of the new sampling data to past data.

What does the Ongoing Monitoring Report tell us?

The data indicates the levels of PFAS in groundwater, surface water, porewater and sediment were consistent with historical results.

Therefore, there is no change in the potential exposure risks to the community or the environment. For more information regarding potential exposure risks, see the PFAS Management Area Plan and Ecological Risk Assessment on the Defence website.

Number of samples collected and analysed

Groundwater 	Groundwater is water beneath the earth's surface. It often supplies bores, wells or springs.	**437 samples collected from 61 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.	**196 samples collected from 28 locations.**
Porewater 	Porewater is groundwater that is moving to the surface (with groundwater flow and tidal effects)	**264 samples collected from 39 locations.**
Sediment 	Sediment is made of broken down remains of rocks, minerals, plants and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.	**269 samples collected from 39 locations.**

Next steps

Over the next 12 months Defence will:

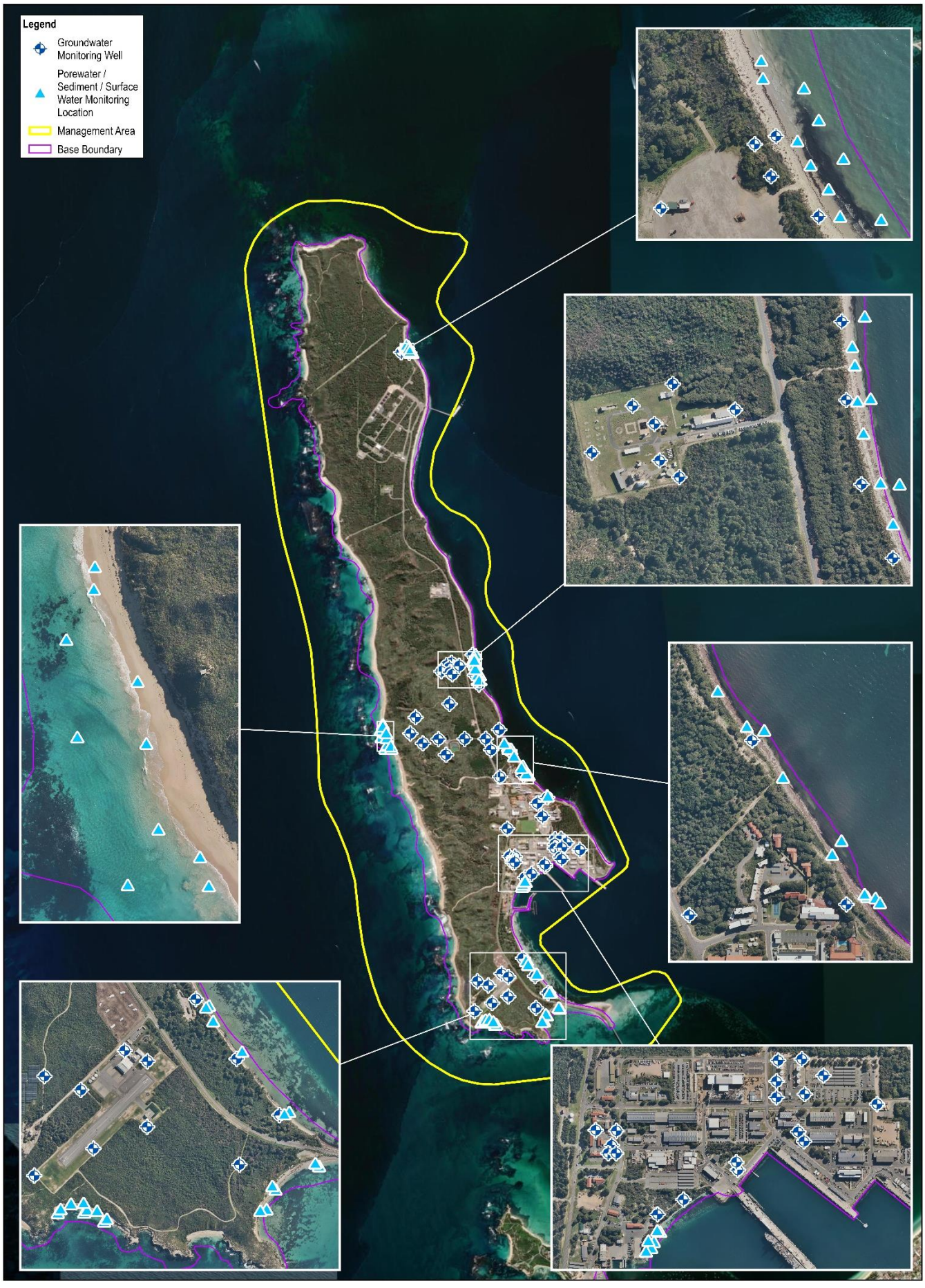
- continue monitoring to further understand any changes in PFAS concentrations, with the next sampling scheduled for mid-2027.
- provide relevant updates to the community about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS.

Contact us

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



HMAS Stirling

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