



Army Aviation Centre Oakey –Brymaroo Environmental Site Assessment Findings

PFAS Investigation and Management Program

About the Investigation

The Department of Defence has completed an Environmental Site Assessment, to better understand the nature and extent of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on, and around, Defence’s Brymaroo Satellite Site (the Site). This investigation was undertaken as part of the Army Aviation Centre Oakey (AACO) Environmental Investigation, as the Site is a satellite site of AACO.

The Brymaroo Satellite Site is located 22 km northwest of AACO and 3.5 km southwest of the Brymaroo township (see Figure 1 below). It is currently used for training in emergency landings and fire hazards. Firefighting foam was historically used at the Site for emergency response, as part of typical airbase activities.

The Brymaroo Satellite Site is not part of the AACO Management Area.

Brymaroo Environmental Site Assessment Objectives

The objectives of the Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) at the Brymaroo Satellite Site were to:

- Understand the hydrogeological conditions of the site;
- Investigate the nature and extent of potential contamination in soil and groundwater;
- Develop a Conceptual Site Model and identify any gaps in the understanding of site conditions;
- Assess the potential risk of PFAS exposure for people, plants and animals; and
- Identify future environmental sampling requirements, to be used as a basis for an Ongoing Monitoring Plan for the Site.

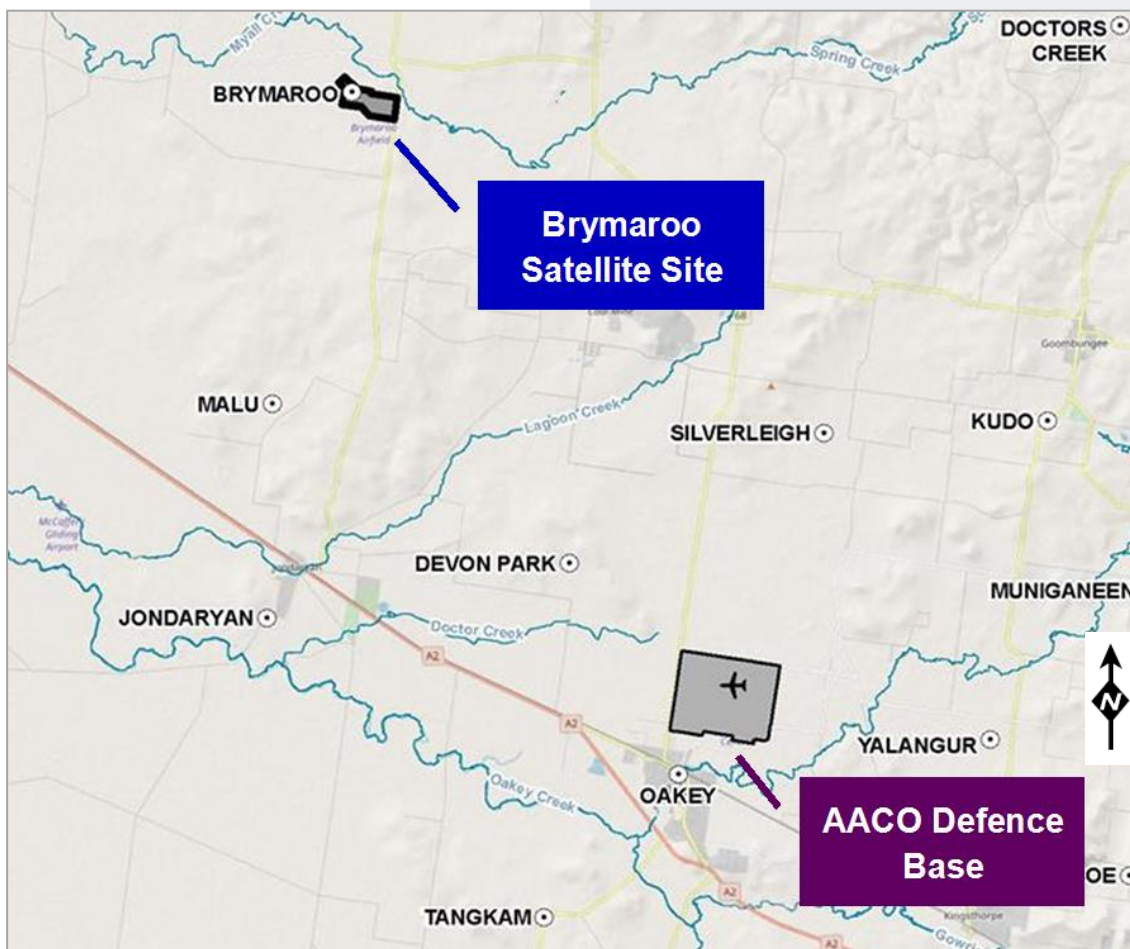


Figure 1 Location of Brymaroo Satellite Site





Sampling and Fieldwork

Fieldwork undertaken to inform the Brymaroo Satellite Site ESA involved:

- Drilling 27 shallow soil bores;
- Installing 12 groundwater monitoring wells; and
- Completing three groundwater monitoring rounds.

Samples collected as part of the ESA are summarised in Table 1 below.

SAMPLE TYPE	SAMPLES COLLECTED
Groundwater	31
Soil	123
Sediment	1

Table 1: Samples collected to inform the Brymaroo Satellite Site ESA

Brymaroo Environmental Site Assessment – Key Findings

Investigation results indicated the presence of PFAS in soil, drain sediment and groundwater in the southern portion of the Site. It is likely that the PFAS detected is from the historical use of firefighting foam at the Site.

The groundwater results indicated limited migration of PFAS in groundwater. There is no indication that PFAS is migrating in groundwater from the Site to outside of the Site boundary.

The assessment indicated the potential for uptake of PFAS in soil to plants and animals on-Site. As the impacts are likely to be localised on-Site, further assessment of the risk is not planned.

Ongoing monitoring of groundwater beneath the Site is required to understand longer term trends in PFAS concentrations and the potential for future changes in the concentration and distribution of PFAS, due to migration with groundwater.



Image: Sample collection bottle and water quality meter probe

Next Steps –Ongoing Monitoring Plan

An Ongoing Monitoring Plan (OMP) is being prepared which outlines the sampling program that will be undertaken by Defence to monitor and track the PFAS contamination over the coming years.

The OMP will provide an evidence base for the ongoing management of the PFAS contamination including looking at changes in concentration and geographical spread.

It will assist Defence to evaluate the progress and success of the management activities being undertaken, or identify where more might need to be done.

The OMP will be regularly reviewed and if required, changes to the monitoring frequency or locations of sampling may occur.

Contact Information

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