



## Key Points

- In November 2018, the Department of Defence completed a detailed environmental investigation into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on and in the area surrounding RAAF Base Wagga.
- Defence used the findings of the investigation to develop the RAAF Base Wagga PFAS Management Area Plan.
- This plan informs the activities Defence will undertake to manage, monitor and reduce the risks of PFAS exposure on and around the base.
- As part of the PFAS Management Area Plan, Defence implemented an Ongoing Monitoring Program to monitor and track PFAS contamination.
- Defence has published the results of ongoing monitoring in an Annual Interpretive Report.

## About the PFAS Ongoing Monitoring Program

The Ongoing Monitoring Program forms an important part of the RAAF Base Wagga PFAS Management Area Plan, and involves periodic sampling of groundwater and surface water from across the monitoring area (shown in Figure 1 on page four).

This sampling looks at any changes in where PFAS has been found, and at what concentrations, which will help Defence and the community understand whether the actions being undertaken as part of the PFAS Management Area Plan are effective, or identify where more might need to be done.

The Ongoing Monitoring Program will be reviewed regularly. As required, Defence will update the monitoring frequency and/or locations of sampling, in consultation with the NSW Environment Protection Authority.

**The 2020 Ongoing Monitoring Annual Interpretive Report has been published and is available at:**  
[www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Wagga/](http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/Wagga/)

## Ongoing Monitoring Annual Interpretive Report

The development of the 2020 Annual Interpretive Report involved analysis of samples collected from across the monitoring area and a review of the investigation findings. Specifically, PFAS source areas, the ways PFAS is migrating off base and any identified exposure risks to the community or environment.

To inform the Annual Interpretive Report, a total of 100 samples were collected between March 2020 and October 2020. This included:

- 68 groundwater samples
- 32 surface water samples

## What does the Annual Interpretive Report tell us?

The results of the ongoing monitoring show that the nature and extent of PFAS contamination in the Management Area remains generally consistent with previous findings, with individual concentration increases in some groundwater monitoring wells and surface water locations.

Localised increases in groundwater PFAS concentrations observed within the base and down-gradient of the base, as well as the Gumly Gumly Wetland suggest that the PFAS plume is moving over time. Defence will continue sampling as part of the ongoing monitoring program to establish any potential trends.

These results do not suggest a change to the PFAS risk profile for RAAF Base Wagga which was outlined in the Human Health Risk Assessment. A factsheet that summarises the Risk Assessment is available at:

[www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Wagga/Factsheets/201811FactsheetRAAFBaseWaggaHHERA.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/docs/Wagga/Factsheets/201811FactsheetRAAFBaseWaggaHHERA.pdf)





## Update on remediation activities

Defence has implemented remediation activities that target the known sources of PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Wagga. These actions aim to reduce the amount of PFAS in the environment and lead to a long-term reduction in the amount of PFAS leaving the base. Below is a summary of the activities that have been completed or are underway at RAAF Base Wagga.

### PFAS Source Area Remediation

The RAAF Base Wagga PFAS Management Area Plan recommended the remediation of the soil at key on-base source areas to reduce the amount of PFAS in the environment and leaving the base.

Defence is planning to undertake remediation works at two source areas; the current Fire Training Pad and current Fire Station. These works are expected to commence in the second quarter of 2022.

#### Current Fire Station

Remediation works at the current Fire Station will include sealing (using a paint-on sealant) of concrete areas (such as the Fire Station Wash Bay) to create a barrier between the PFAS-impacted concrete and surface water.

This barrier will reduce the amount of PFAS moving into the storm water drainage network via surface water.

#### Current Fire Training Pad

Remediation activities for the current Fire Training Pad will include the demolition of the PFAS impacted concrete training pad, nearby storm water lines and underground storage pits.

Additionally, the soil around the Former Fire Training Pad and associated infrastructure will be excavated and stabilised. Soil stabilisation involves removing the PFAS-impacted soil and treating it with a binding agent, making the PFAS stick together within the soil and preventing it from moving during rain events

## Mass Flux Study

A PFAS Mass Flux Study is underway to establish a detailed understanding of the amount (mass) and rate of movement (flux) of PFAS leaving the base from source areas to the wider environment.

The information gathered will establish a baseline for assessing improvements as a result of any remediation works. It will also help inform if any additional measures are required to minimise the movement of PFAS from the base.

### Keeping the community informed

Defence will continue to keep the community informed about the progress of ongoing monitoring, and remediation and management activities, at and around RAAF Base Wagga.

### Where can I find more information?

More information on Defence's response to PFAS contamination at RAAF Base Wagga, including detailed reports, the PFAS Management Area Plan, and factsheets is available on Defence's PFAS Investigation and Management website.

 [www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/wagga/](http://www.defence.gov.au/environment/pfas/wagga/)

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Figure 1: Monitoring locations and management area

