



## Salt Ash Air Weapons Range – Findings of Preliminary Site Investigation

PFAS Investigation and Management Program

### About the Preliminary Site Investigation

The Department of Defence has finalised a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) into per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Salt Ash Air Weapons Range.

The PSI, which commenced in July 2018, has now been completed. The PSI involved the historical review of legacy firefighting foam use and storage, to identify where legacy firefighting foam was used (sources), as well as how PFAS moves in the environment. The PSI also included on-range sampling of groundwater, surface water, soil and sediment. Limited off-range sampling was undertaken.

This PSI is part a national review of Defence properties, which may have used firefighting foam containing specific types of PFAS, as active ingredients.

However, the PSI found no records of the historical use of these foams at Salt Ash Air Weapons Range.

### Key Findings of the Preliminary Site Investigation

The outcomes of the PSI concluded **there is no requirement for further environmental investigations** into PFAS at or surrounding the Range.

The PSI found that:

- PFAS was not widespread and only found in low concentrations;
- There were no detections of PFAS in surface water or soil samples;
- There were no detections of PFAS in groundwater monitoring wells installed at, or close, to the Range boundary; and
- Groundwater flow was consistent with historical data. Groundwater generally flows in a northerly or south-easterly direction.

All current potential PFAS exposure pathways suggest no exposure-risk based on the sampling undertaken during the PSI.

**The full PSI Report is available at:**  
[www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/InvestigationAndManagementSites.asp](http://www.defence.gov.au/Environment/PFAS/InvestigationAndManagementSites.asp)

### Sampling results

Sampling locations, shown on the map (over page), were selected to identify if PFAS concentrations exist in groundwater, surface water and soil on the Range.

The PSI involved the collection of:

- **16 groundwater** samples, from bores and monitoring wells on-range;
- **16 soil** samples from deep and shallow bores and monitoring wells on-range;
- **6 sediment** samples, from locations along creeks and open channels; and
- **15 surface water** samples, from locations along Moffats Creek, Racecourse Swamp, Saltwater Creek and Twelve Mile Creek.

A low-level detection of PFAS was found in one groundwater well, on-range, likely attributed to historical waste burial activities.

Three sediment samples collected from Racecourse Swamp, reported detectable concentrations of PFAS.

All other samples collected did not contain detectable concentrations of PFAS.

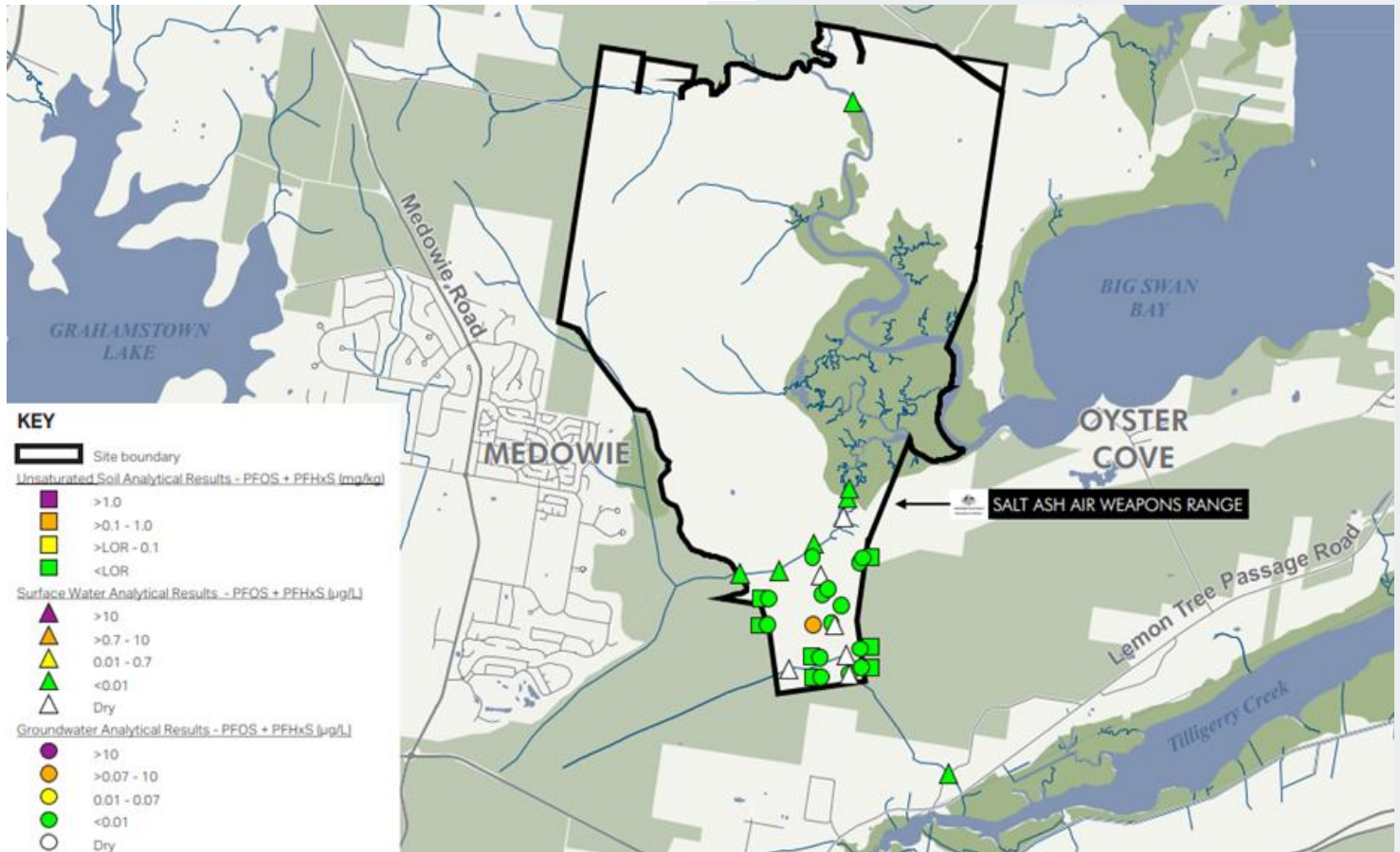


*Salt Ash Air Weapons Range*





## Salt Ash Air Weapons Range: Sampling Locations



## Salt Ash Residents within the existing NSW EPA Management Area

In November 2017, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) designated a Management Area, as part of the nearby RAAF Base Williamtown Environmental Investigation. This Management Area is approximately 400 metres south-west of the Salt Ash Air Weapons Range.

Salt Ash residents within this Management Area should continue to follow the EPA's precautionary advice, as part of minimising exposure to PFAS, originating from the RAAF Base Williamtown. For more information contact 131 555 or visit [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au).

## Contact Information

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