



Community Consultative Session

PFAS Investigation and Management Program

HMAS Albatross
PFAS Investigation and Management Program update
Thursday 9 November 2023





Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the Dharawal, Wodi Wodi, Wandi Wandandian, Jerrinja and Wreck Bay communities, who are the traditional owners of the land where we meet today.

We would like to pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the deep connection these communities have to this country and its waterways, and how they have and continue to care for the environment around us.

We also pay my respects to Indigenous men and women who have contributed to the Defence of Australia in times of peace and war.





Outline



- What are PFAS?
- How PFAS moves in the environment
- Initial investigations
- PFAS Management Area Plan
- Further investigations
- Proposed remediation
- Ongoing Monitoring Plan
- Next steps
- Questions

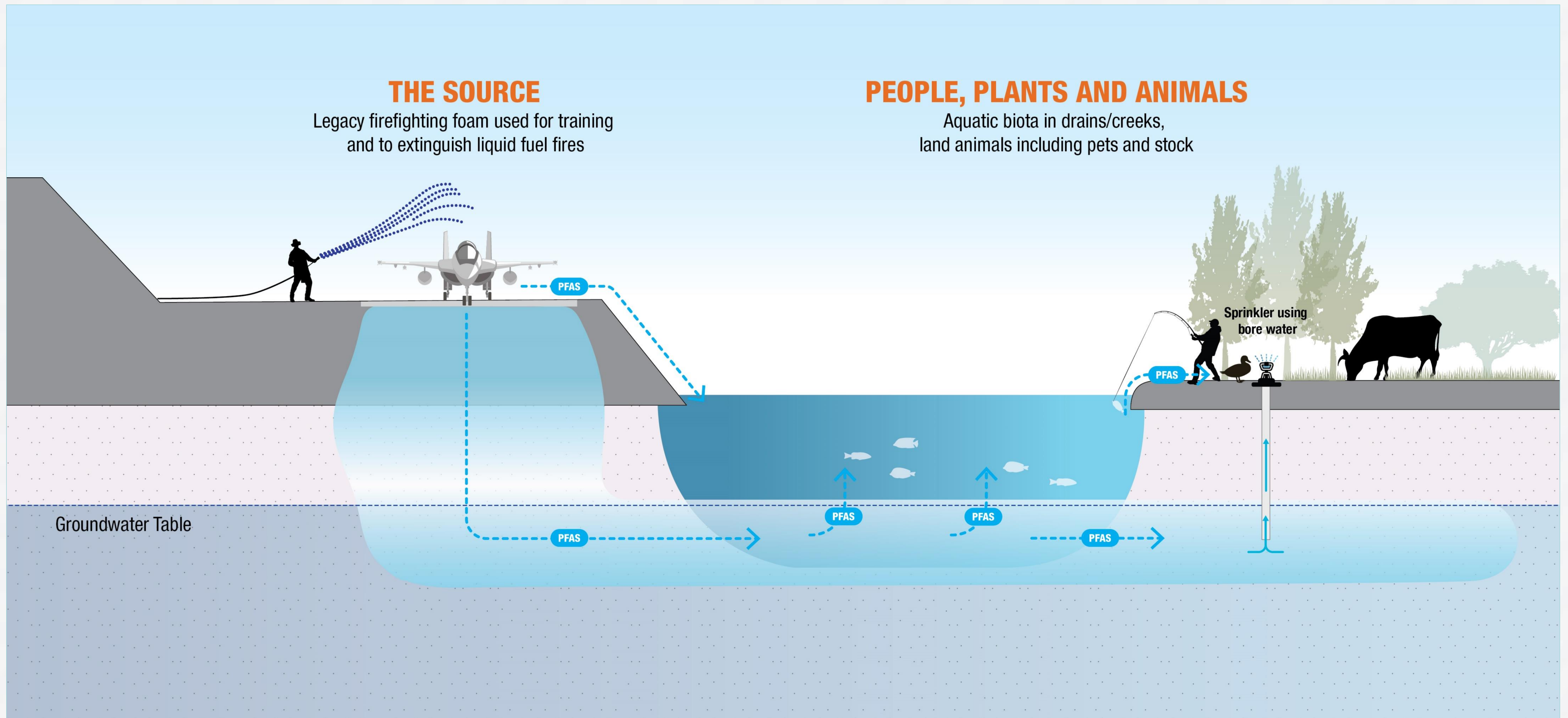


What are PFAS?



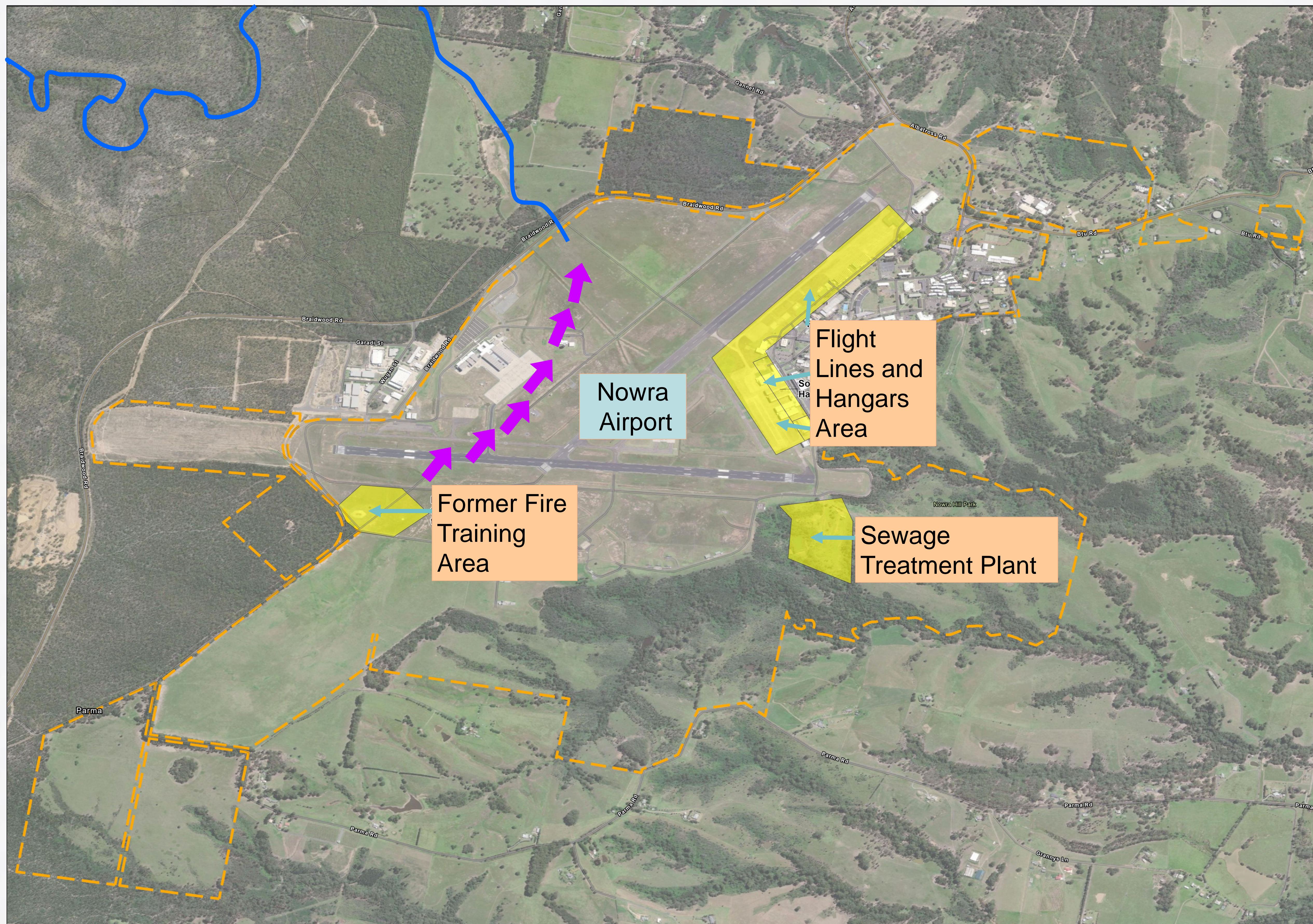


PFAS movement through the environment




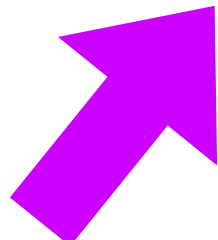




HMAS Albatross



Legend

	Source area
	Base boundary
	Braidwood Road drain
	Primary direction surface water flows



PFAS Management Area Plan - Management approach



Source controls

Manage the source areas.



Pathway controls

Reduce movement of PFAS off-base.




Exposure controls

Follow existing precautionary advice to reduce exposure.



PFAS Management Area Plan - Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
Implement an Ongoing Monitoring Plan	
Manage PFAS in soils at the Former Fire Training Area	Design agreed
Investigate and assess the Sewage Treatment Plant	Commenced
Plan and install a surface water treatment system	Being revised



Further investigations

- Mass Flux Assessment completed in June 2022.
- Base work at HMAS Albatross influences the remediation planning and schedule.
- The PFAS Program Team is working closely with the runway design team to ensure that the works do not lead to additional PFAS leaving the base.



The Bell 429 Aircraft land one of their final flights with Navy, retiring after 12 years of service at HMAS Albatross.



Proposed remediation at the Former Fire Training Area



The site will be reshaped to create a gentle slope that prevents pooling of water.



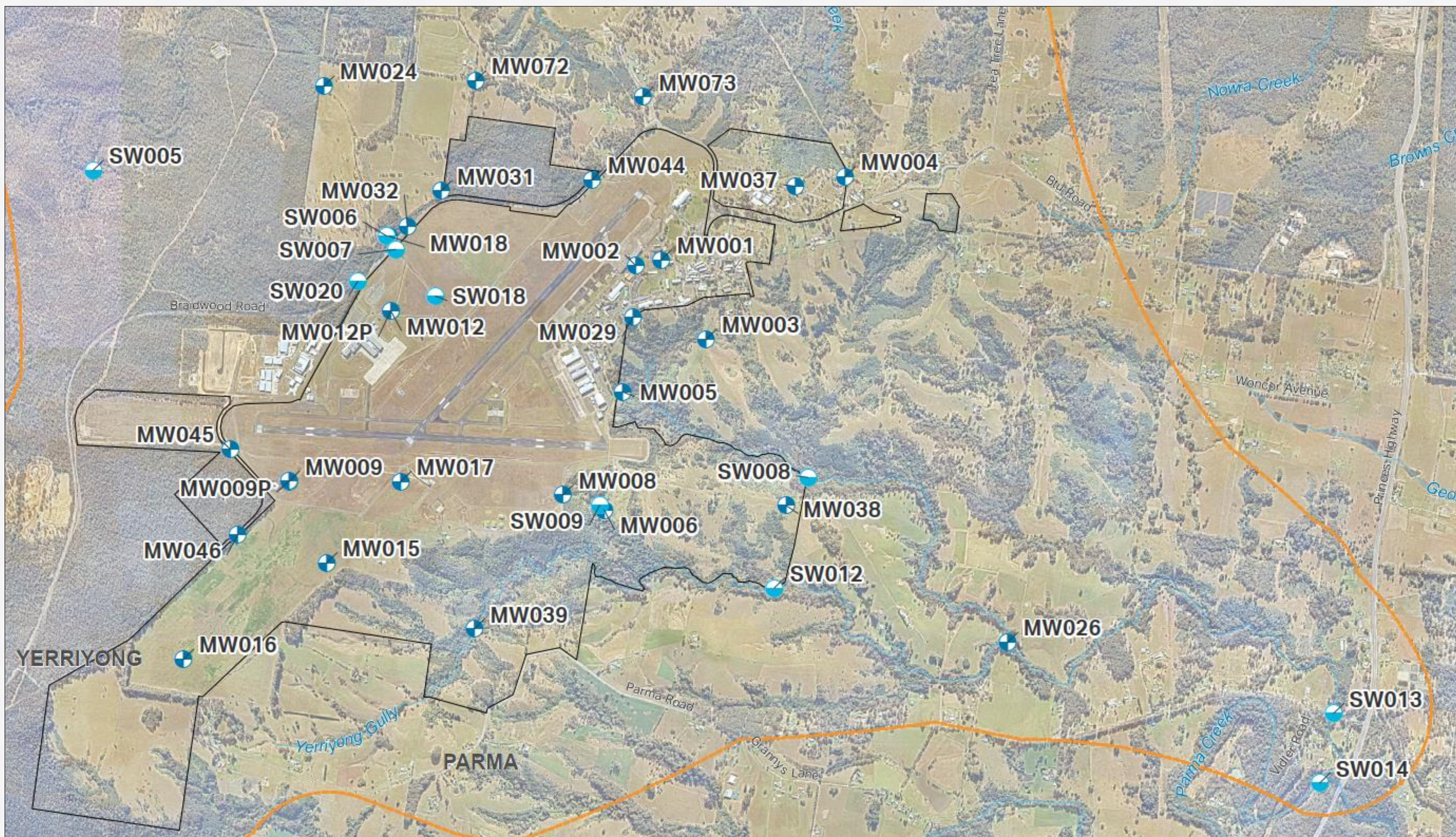
An engineered cap will be placed over and beyond the source area to prevent water from getting into the contaminated soil and collecting PFAS.



Drainage around the site will be redeveloped to minimise erosion and divert clean water from contaminated soil.



Ongoing Monitoring Plan – Monitoring locations



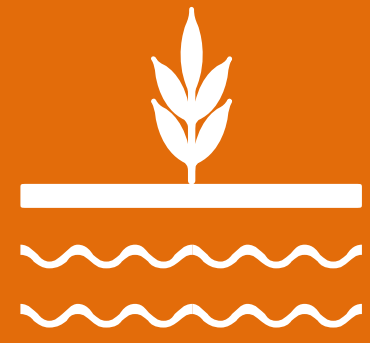
- Base Boundary
- Management Area
- ⊕ Groundwater Sampling Location
- Surface Water Sampling Location



2022 Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report

Number of samples collected between 2019 and 2022

Groundwater



105 samples
collected from
groundwater monitoring
wells.

Surface water



136 samples
collected from surface
water.

Key findings:

- No change in risk profile.
- Highest PFAS levels were found on-base, close to identified source areas with four locations reporting new historical maximums.
- New maximum concentrations of PFAS in groundwater likely due to the movement of PFAS as a result of above average rainfall during the monitoring period.
- The findings suggest no change in any potential exposure risks for the community.





Next steps

Commence remediation works at the Former Fire Training Area.



Continue monitoring.



Continue keeping the community updated.





Thank you

Contact us



Phone: 1800 333 362



Email: pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au



Website: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/hmas-albatross>

