



## HMAS Cairns

### Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report (September 2020 – April 2023)

Defence undertakes monitoring on and around HMAS Cairns and the former World War II (WWII) Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Fuel Installation areas (hereon referred to as HMAS Cairns) to understand per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in soil and water.

The monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities. Monitoring requirements are set out in an Ongoing Monitoring Plan. Defence started ongoing monitoring on and around HMAS Cairns in 2019.

#### What is an Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report?

An Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report collates and interprets PFAS sampling results from the Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

#### Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report (September 2020 – April 2023)

This report covers groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling conducted between September 2020 and April 2023, from locations on and around HMAS Cairns. The Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report also compares the results of the new sampling to previous results.

#### What does the Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report tell us?

Based on the samples collected on and around HMAS Cairns, the levels of PFAS contamination were consistent with previous years. The monitoring identified:

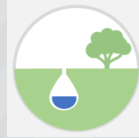
- The highest PFAS concentrations were found at known, on-base source areas, including the Former Fire Training Area and Defence Fuel Installation at HMAS Cairns.

- Slight increases and decreases in PFAS concentrations were reported at several sampling locations, although they were within expected variability. All locations will continue to be monitored over time to identify any trends.

The findings from the Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report do not suggest a change in any potential exposure risks for the community.

#### Number of samples collected and analysed (September 2020 – April 2023)

##### GROUNDWATER



Groundwater is water beneath the earth's surface. It often supplies bores, wells or springs.

199 samples collected from 18 groundwater monitoring locations.

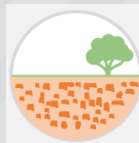
##### SURFACE WATER



Surface water is water that collects on the ground and can be in the form of creeks, rivers, lakes, wetlands, oceans and more.

54 samples collected from 9 surface water locations.

##### SEDIMENT



Sediment is made of broken down remains of rocks, minerals, plants, and animals that is moved and deposited to a new location.

54 samples collected from 9 sediment locations.

#### Next steps

Defence will continue monitoring on and around HMAS Cairns to further understand any changes in PFAS concentrations that may appear over time. This Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report and all other reports and factsheets prepared for HMAS Cairns and the former World War II (WWII) Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Fuel Installation are available on the Defence website (see page 3).



Figure 1  
**HMAS Cairns Monitoring Locations**



## Keeping you informed

Defence will continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around HMAS Cairns.

### Read the full September 2020 – April 2023 HMAS Cairns Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report



Scan the QR code below to access the report via the HMAS Cairns webpage:



Or, use the link below to access the Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report:  
<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/hmas-cairns>

### Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)



For translation assistance, TIS National provides interpreting services 24 hours a day via telephone from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local call\*.

For more information contact 131 450 or visit : <https://www.tisnational.gov.au/>

*\*Calls from mobile phones may attract a higher rate.*

### Looking for more information?



Scan the QR code below for more information on how Defence manages PFAS contamination, or visit the website:  
<https://www.defence.gov.au/pfas>



### Alternatively, you can contact:



1800 333 362



[pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au](mailto:pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au)

### Media enquiries



Media enquiries should be directed to the Defence media centre on  
**(02) 6217 1999** or via email at  
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