



RAAF Base East Sale

Ongoing Monitoring Reports (2021 – 2023)

Defence monitors on and around RAAF Base East Sale to understand per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in water and sediment. The monitoring results inform PFAS management and remediation activities. Monitoring requirements are set out in an Ongoing Monitoring Plan. Defence started monitoring on and around RAAF Base East Sale in 2019.

What is an Ongoing Monitoring Report?

An Ongoing Monitoring Report collates and interprets PFAS results from the sampling done in accordance with the Ongoing Monitoring Plan.

Ongoing Monitoring Reports (2021 – 2022) and (2023)

The two reports cover groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling from locations on and around RAAF Base East Sale conducted between January 2021 and November 2023. The reports also compare the results of each location with previous sampling and monitoring data.

What do the Ongoing Monitoring Reports tell us?

The sampling results do not suggest any change to potential human health and ecological risks compared with the findings from the 2018 investigations. For more information, see the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment report on the Defence website (QR code on page 3).

The levels of PFAS contamination on and around RAAF Base East Sale fluctuated over time but were consistent with historical results with the following exceptions:

- Potentially increasing levels of PFAS in groundwater immediately downgradient of the former waste burial area located along the south-east site boundary and former waste burial area located along the south-east site boundary.

- Several monitoring locations in the Heart Morass reported increased levels of PFAS in surface water and/or sediment during 2021 – 2022, likely due to high rainfall in this period. Sampling data shows this subsequently decreased in 2023.

Number of samples collected and analysed (2021 – 2023)

GROUNDWATER



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

865 samples collected from 80 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.

592 samples collected from 61 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.

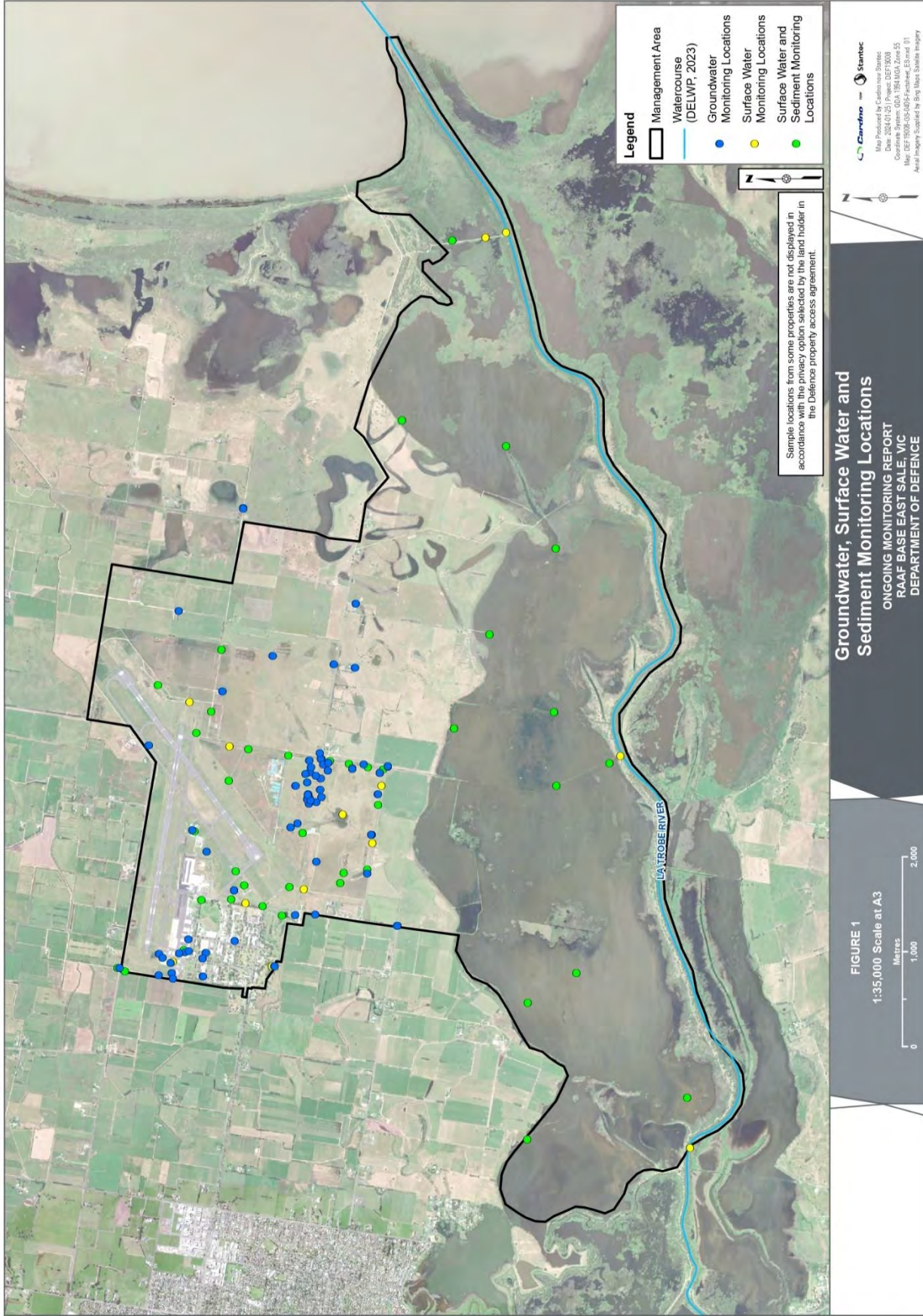
345 samples collected from 48 sediment locations.

Next steps

Defence will continue monitoring on and around RAAF Base East Sale to further understand any changes in PFAS concentrations. Defence is also investigating the movement of PFAS from surface water into the underlying groundwater to inform if additional management actions are required.

These Ongoing monitoring reports and all other reports and factsheets prepared for RAAF Base East Sale are available on the Defence website.

Defence has removed stockpiles of PFAS contaminated soil from the base and is preparing a remediation action plan for PFAS source areas.



RAAF Base East Sale Monitoring Locations



Keeping you informed

Defence will continue to keep the community informed about the management and ongoing monitoring of PFAS on and around RAAF Base East Sale.

Read the full RAAF Base East Sale Ongoing Monitoring Report

Scan the QR code below:



Or, use the link below to access the Ongoing Monitoring Report:
www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/raaf-base-east-sale

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 : www.tisnational.gov.au/

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

Looking for more information?



Scan the QR code below to find out more about Defence's PFAS Investigation and management program, or visit the website:

www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/defence-approach



Alternatively, you can contact:



1800 333 362



pfas.enquiry@defence.gov.au

Media enquiries



Media enquiries should be directed to Defence Media via email at:

media@defence.gov.au