



## Swartz Barracks

### Factsheet - Ongoing Monitoring Report 2023

Defence monitors on and around Swartz Barracks (formally known as Army Aviation Centre Oakey) to understand per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in sediment and water. 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 Swartz Barracks 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 Report 2023

This Report covers groundwater, surface water and sediment sampling conducted between January 2023 and December 2023, from locations on and around Swartz Barracks. The report also compares the results from the latest sampling event to previous results.

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

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

PFAS concentrations in groundwater, surface water and sediment were expected or consistent with previous results.

PFAS were detected in low concentrations within groundwater to the west of the Management Area. This detection indicates a change in PFAS distribution and suggests PFAS is more widespread to the west than previously understood. This change is consistent with the predicted PFAS distribution from the

groundwater modelling in 2017. Further investigation is underway to assess the PFAS distribution to the west.

#### Number of samples collected and analysed (January 2023 – December 2023)

##### GROUNDWATER



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

134 samples collected from 96 groundwater monitoring locations.

##### SURFACE WATER



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

19 samples collected from 22 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.

20 samples collected from 22 sediment locations.

#### Precautionary advice

The Queensland Government has general precautionary advice for residents living in or near contaminated areas. For further information, please refer to the Queensland Government website. [www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/incidents/pfas/about](http://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/incidents/pfas/about)

#### Next steps

Defence will continue to manage, remediate and monitor PFAS contamination on and around Swartz Barracks. Further investigations are underway to understand PFAS movement to the west of Swartz Barracks. These investigations will tell Defence if there are any changes new risk to the community requiring management. The Ongoing Monitoring Report, all other reports, and factsheets for Swartz Barracks are available on the Defence website.

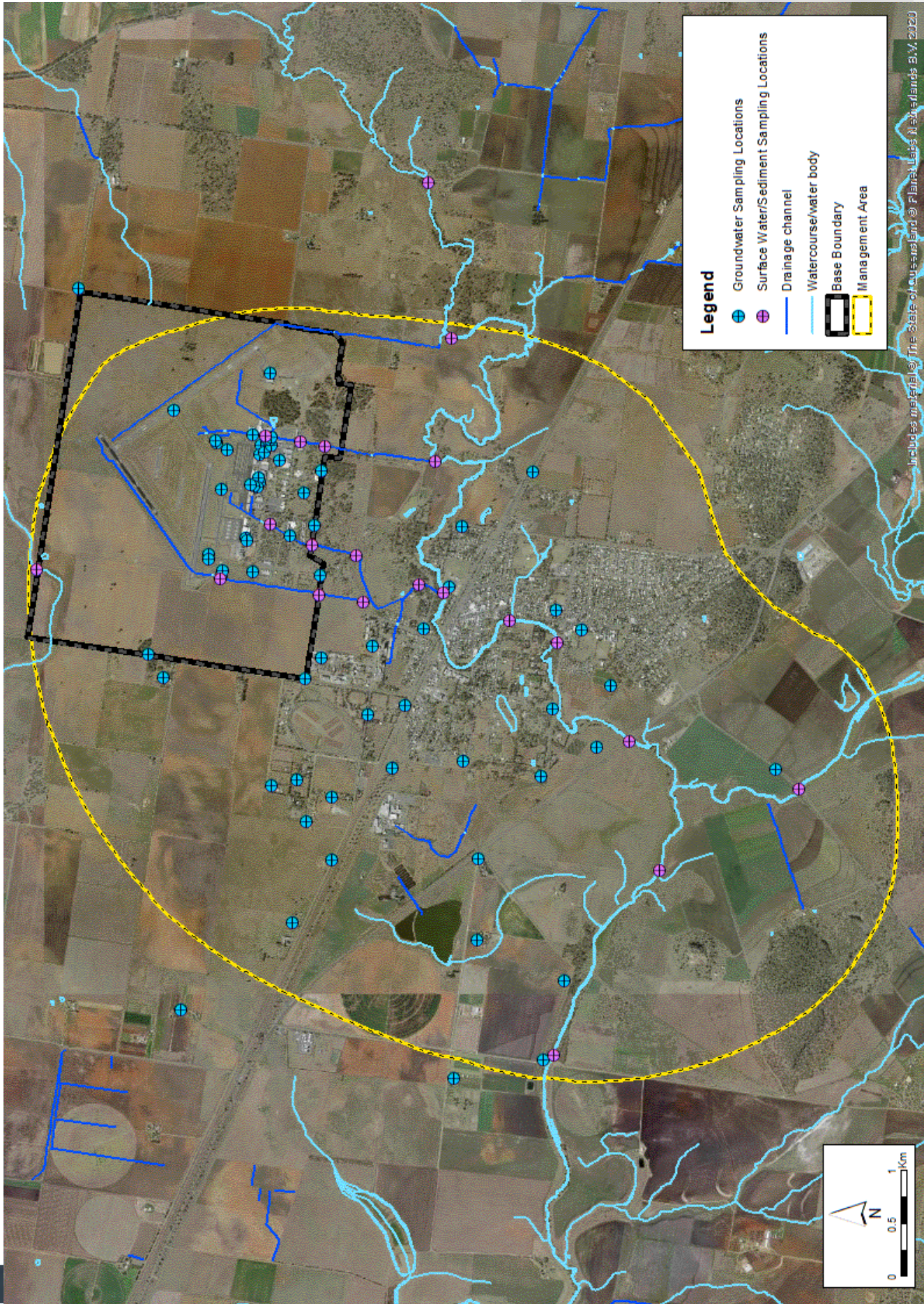


Figure 1

## Swartz Barracks Monitoring Locations



## Keeping you informed

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

### Read the full Swartz Barracks Ongoing Monitoring Report

Scan the QR code here



Or, use the link below to access the Ongoing Monitoring Report:

[www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/swartz-barracks](https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/pfas-management-sites/swartz-barracks)

### Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)



For translation assistance, TIS National can supply telephone or on-site interpreting. The service is accessible from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local and is available 24 hours a day. <https://www.tisnational.gov.au/>

### Looking for more information?



Scan this QR code for more information on how Defence manages PFAS contamination:



<https://www.defence.gov.au/about/locations-property/pfas/defence-approach>

### Alternatively, you can contact:



1800 136 129



[defence.oakey@aecom.com](mailto:defence.oakey@aecom.com)

### Media enquiries



Direct media enquiries to the Defence media centre on (02) 6217 1999 or [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)