



## RAAF Base Wagga

### Ongoing Monitoring Report April 2021 – October 2023

Defence monitors on and around RAAF Base Wagga to understand per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) movement and concentrations in 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 RAAF Base Wagga in 2020.

#### What is an Ongoing Monitoring Report?

An Ongoing Monitoring Report collates and interprets PFAS sampling results from the ongoing monitoring events.

#### Ongoing Monitoring Report (2021 – 2023)

This report covers groundwater and surface water sampling conducted between April 2021 and October 2023, from locations on and around RAAF Base Wagga. The report also compares the data from the latest sampling events to previous results.

The sampling results suggest PFAS is more widespread in the area than previously understood. However, this does not change the exposure risk for the community. For further information on current precautionary advice issued by NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) please refer to the EPA website [Wagga Wagga RAAF Base \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au/wagga-wagga-raaf-base)

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

Based on the samples collected on and around RAAF Base Wagga, the levels of PFAS were consistent with previous results, with the exception of PFAS detected off-base near Marshalls Creek in 2023.

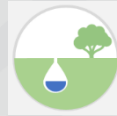
In response to this detection, Defence installed and sampled additional monitoring bores to monitor the movement of the existing plume towards Riverina Water's East Wagga borefield.

Within these bores, minor detections of PFAS were found in the shallow groundwater but PFAS were not detected at the depth from which drinking water is drawn. Defence also sampled bores used by Riverina Water and but did not detect PFAS in any of Riverina Water's East Wagga bores at any point.

An increasing trend for PFAS concentrations was observed at one on base groundwater well. This is likely associated with surface water infiltration in this area and is being investigated further.

#### Number of samples collected and analysed (2021 – 2023)

##### GROUNDWATER



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

246 samples collected from 44 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.

95 samples collected from 16 surface water locations.

#### Next steps

Defence will continue to manage, remediate and monitor PFAS contamination on and around RAAF Base Wagga. Remedial works on the base are in progress and further investigations are underway to better understand how PFAS in surface water intersects with the underlying groundwater. This will tell us if there are more risks that we need to manage. As a priority, Defence continues to investigate the source of PFAS found in groundwater near Riverina Water's East Wagga borefield.

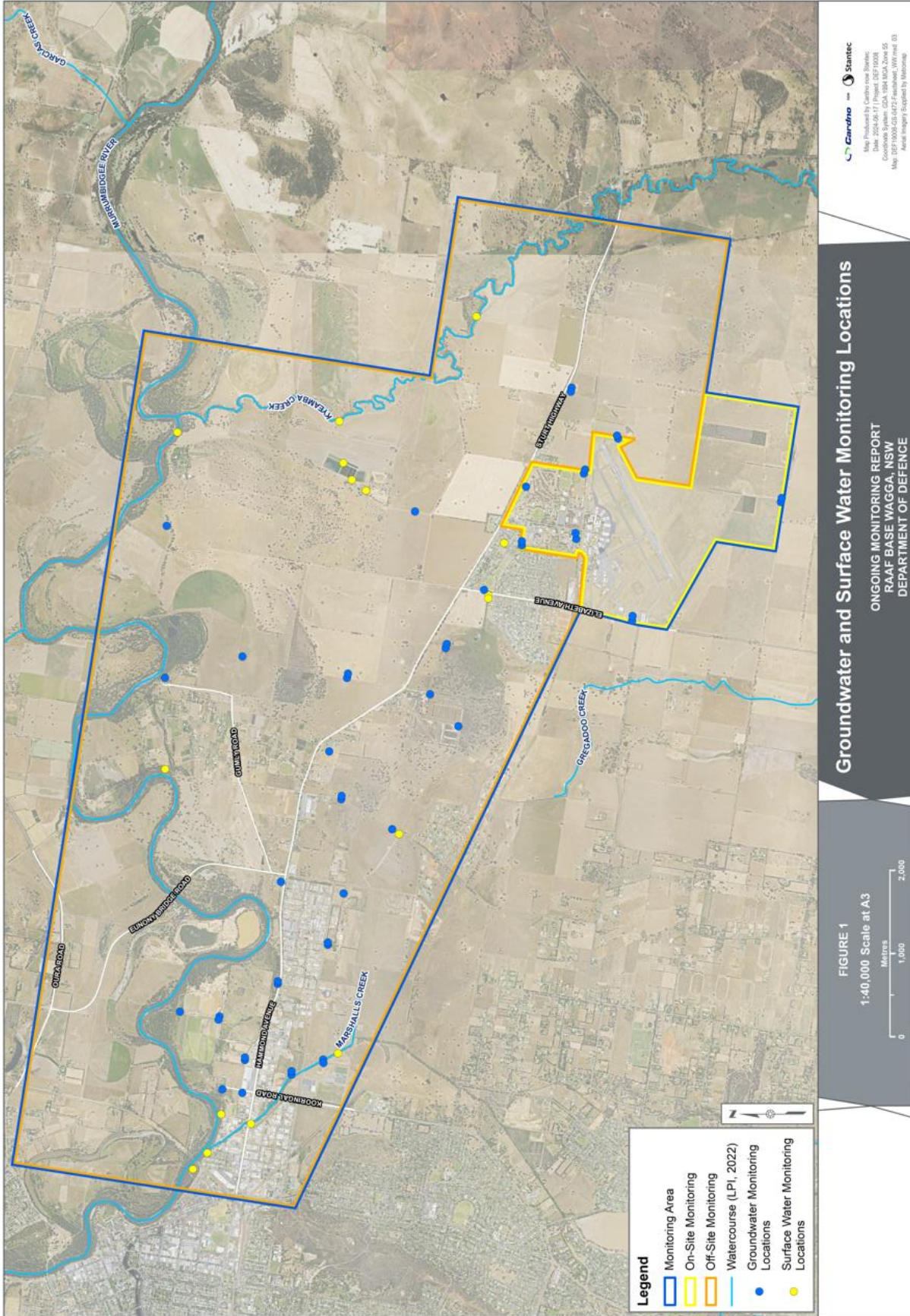


Figure 1  
RAAF Base Wagga Monitoring Locations



## Keeping you informed

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

## Read the full RAAF Base Wagga Ongoing Monitoring Interpretive Report

Scan the QR code here



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

## Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National)

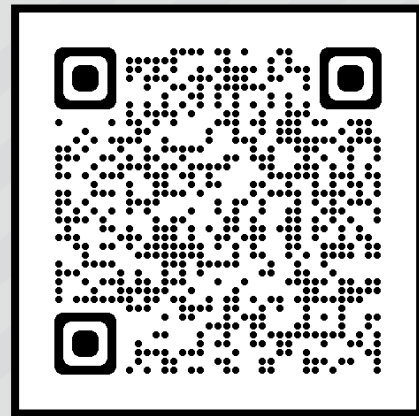


For translation assistance, TIS National can supply telephone or on-site interpreting. The service is accessible from anywhere in Australia for the cost of a local and is available 24 hours a day.  
<https://www.tisnational.gov.au/>

## 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 333 362



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

## Media enquiries



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