Investigation Update

The first stage of the investigation, the Preliminary Site Investigation, has now been completed. This stage involved the historical review of legacy firefighting foam use and storage to identify where and when the foam was used (sources), how PFAS moves in the environment (migration pathways) and people, animals and the environment that may be exposed to PFAS (receptors).

Initial sampling of surface water and groundwater was conducted at HMAS Cairns and near the Former WWII Royal Australian Navy fuel installation in late 2018 and early 2019.

Sampling results are as follows:

HMAS Cairns Investigation Area

Media	Samples	Results
Groundwater (on base)	11	Nine (9) above recreational water guidelines
Groundwater (off-base Bore*)	1	Below drinking water guidelines
Surface Water (on-base Drains)	2	One (1) above recreational water guidelines One (1) above drinking water guidelines
Surface Water (Trinity Inlet)	7	All below drinking water guidelines

** Registered bore 600 meters to the west of the base*

Former WWII Royal Australian Navy Fuel Installation Investigation Area

Media	Samples	Results
Groundwater	2	One **above** Drinking water guidelines
Surface Water (Saltwater Creek)	3	All **below** drinking water guidelines

Figure 2 - HMAS Cairns Investigation Area

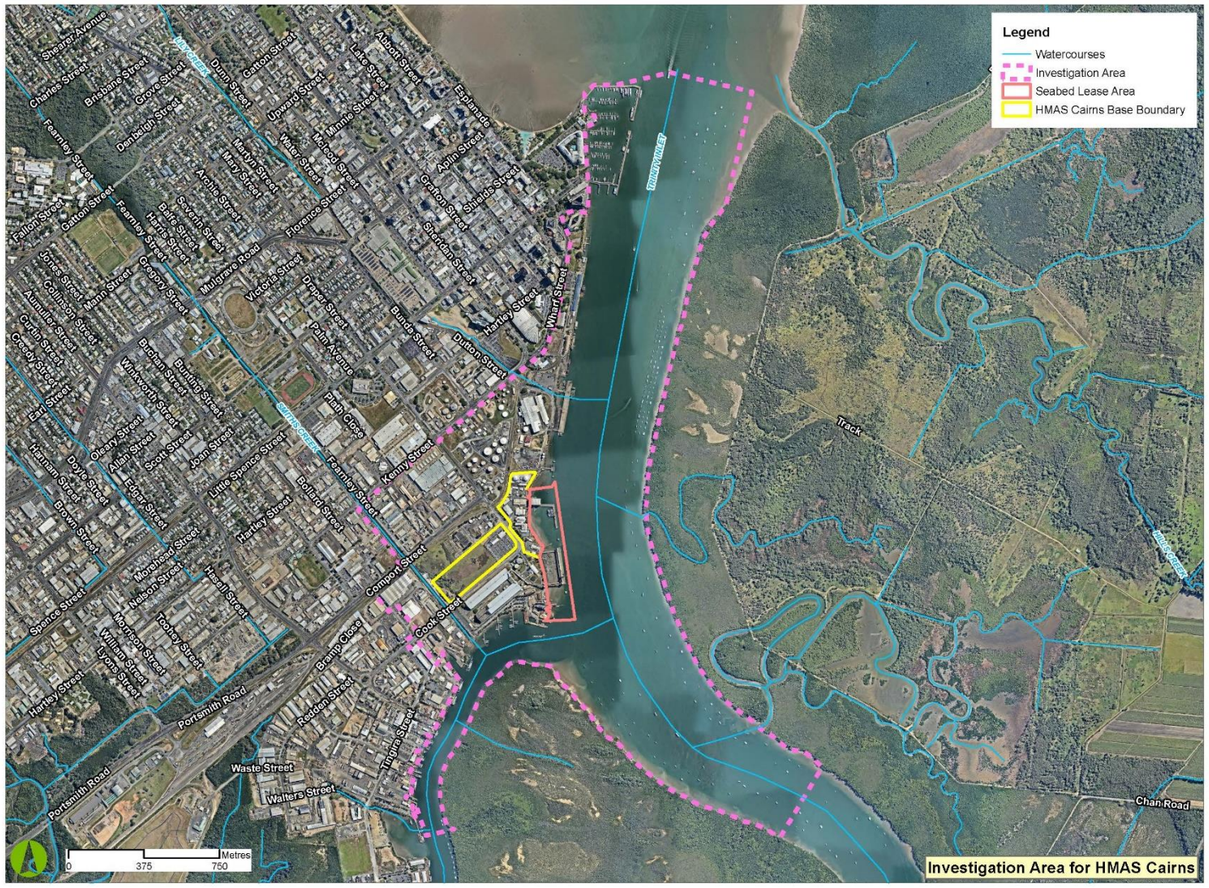
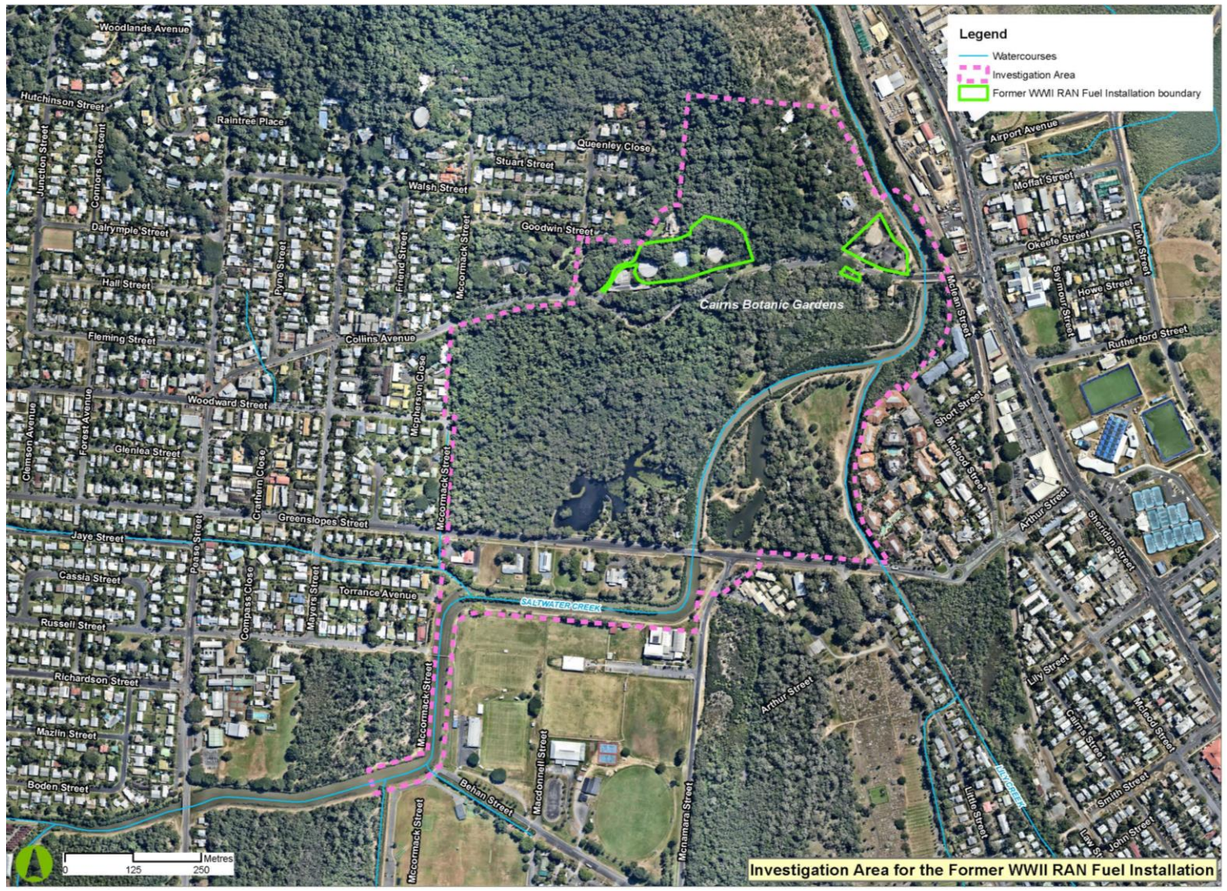


Figure 1 - Former WWII Royal Australian Navy Fuel



Investigation Areas

The Investigation Areas define the current extent of the investigation focuss on the potential people, animals and environment that may be exposed to PFAS. The Investigation Areas may be revised as the investigation progresses and additional data becomes available.

The findings of the Preliminary Site Investigation have been used to define Investigation Areas around HMAS Cairns and the Former WWII Royal Australian Navy fuel installation as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Image: HMAS Cairns

Next Steps

The findings of the Preliminary Site Investigation have been used to develop a Conceptual Site Model. The Conceptual Site Model develops the understanding of sources of PFAS and their potential pathways to people and the environment as well as assist in prioritising works for stage two, the Detailed Site Investigation.

The Detailed Site Investigation will involve sampling and analysis of soil, sediment, surface water, and groundwater on-and-off the Base. Animals (i.e. fish / crustacean) will also be sampled off-base.

A detailed report will be prepared and shared with relevant government and regulatory bodies and will also be made available to the wider community.

If required, a more detailed Human Health and/or Ecological Risk Assessment may be conducted to evaluate the potential PFAS exposures to people and the environment.