



COWLEY BEACH INNISFAIL, QUEENSLAND

Base Address	Innisfail, Queensland
Base Established	1962
Region	Queensland
Date of Last Data Review	April 2016



Description

The Cowley Beach Training Area is located within the Wet Tropics Region of Far North Queensland. The Cowley Beach, Innisfail property was first occupied by the Joint Tropical Research Unit in 1962, and operated jointly with the British Ministry of Defence. The facility was renamed to the Joint Tropical Trial Research Establishment in the 1970s. The property is approximately 5,000 hectares, and is located 90 kilometres south of Cairns, near the township of Innisfail.



The Cowley Beach Training Area includes Lindquist Island (approximately 1 km offshore).

Base Activities

Base activities are focussed on research. The property contains a training area, firing and weapons ranges, fuel storage and distribution facilities from above ground and underground storage tanks, a wash bay facility, and workshop/chemical storage facilities.

Historical activities have also included the use of landfills for waste disposal from base activities up until the 1990s.

Contamination Information

Known Contamination

Known contamination at the property includes:

- Some localised fuel related contamination in soils around a former fuel tank farm that was decommissioned in 2007;
- Elevated concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorous, with the likely cause attributed to sewage effluent disposal practises; and
- Elevated lead levels in soil around the stop butt areas of some firing range sites.

Risk Assessment

Potential risks from known contamination have been identified on the base. These risks are actively managed by Defence to ensure that impacts to human health and the environment are minimised.





Current Status

Stage 1 desktop investigations have been completed for the property. A Stage 2 Investigation, including assessment of soil and groundwater quality around the property has also been undertaken.

Defence conducts ongoing regular monitoring of groundwater at the base and further investigations as required.

Other Information

For further information, contact Department of Defence at yourcustomer.service@defence.gov.au.

