

Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives for waters of the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions:

Consultation summary and response to submissions



Prepared by: Environmental Policy and Planning Division, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

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1 Purpose of this report

This report summarises external party consultation undertaken by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department) in developing environmental values (EVs) and water quality objectives (WQOs) for waters in the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions. The work was carried out in accordance with the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009* (the EPP Water).

In particular, the report addresses section 11 of the EPP Water, which requires that '*in developing a document about a particular water for inclusion in schedule 1, the chief executive...must ensure there has been:* a) *consultation with the community, including industry and commerce sectors...*'. The report summarises the issues raised during the public review/submission phase of the consultation process, and the department's response to them. The draft EVs consultation documents that were released for public comment are outlined in section 2 of this report.

The EVs and WQOs were approved and incorporated into legislation when the *Environmental Protection (Water) Amendment Policy (No. 1) 2013* was gazetted on 16 August 2013. The gazettal amended schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009* (EPP Water) to include EVs and WQOs for:

- Townsville region waters: Black and Ross River basins, Magnetic Island, adjacent coastal waters.
- Mackay-Whitsunday region waters: Proserpine River, Whitsunday Island, O'Connell River, Pioneer River, and Plane Creek basins, adjacent islands and coastal waters.

The final EVs, WQOs and accompanying plans are available from the department's website www.ehp.qld.gov.au (search for 'EPP Water schedule 1').

1.1 Background

EVs and WQOs for both regions were initially developed as part of water quality improvement plan (WQIP) processes. These WQIPs were developed with funding assistance from the Australian Government's Coastal Catchments Initiative (CCI), and support from other levels of government, industry, science and community interests. The Townsville region WQIP was undertaken by the Townsville City Council through its Creek to Coral program, and was finalised in February 2010. The Mackay-Whitsunday region WQIP was undertaken by Reef Catchments (previously Mackay-Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Group), and was finalised in 2008.

The WQIPs, supplemented by additional consultation and information, are a key source for the EVs and WQOs included in schedule 1 of the EPP Water. Key consultation elements from these WQIPs are summarised in this report. Further information on these WQIPs is available from www.creektocoral.org (Townsville WQIP) and reefcatchments.com.au.

1.2 Project scope

The geographic scope includes the Black, Ross, Proserpine, Whitsunday Island, O'Connell, Pioneer and Plane Creek basins and coastal waters as specified in the relevant schedule documents and plans, which are available from the department's website. The project areas cover fresh, estuarine and coastal waters to state limits. Basin numbers provided below are from Geoscience Australia (1997) Australia's river basins - product user guide (3rd ed 2004).

1.2.1 Townsville region

Waters include:

- Black River Basin (Basin 117) and adjacent coastal waters as mapped.
- Ross River Basin (Basin 118), Magnetic Island and adjacent coastal waters as mapped.

1.2.2 Mackay-Whitsunday region

Waters include:

- Proserpine River (122), Whitsunday Island (123), O'Connell River (124) basins, and adjacent coastal waters as mapped.
- Pioneer River (125) and Plane Creek (126) basins, and adjacent coastal waters as mapped.

2 Stakeholder consultation

This section outlines the four main consultation rounds undertaken in the development of the EVs documents.

2.1 Round 1: Consultation during development of water quality improvement plans (WQIPs)

2.1.1 Townsville region

Consultation during the development of the Black-Ross (Townsville) WQIP was managed by the Townsville City Council Creek to Coral program, with the department involved at the various EVs workshops. Main consultation activities occurred throughout 2007 and 2008, with the draft WQIP released for public comment in June 2009. The plan was finalised in 2010. Key elements of the consultation included a steering committee, technical panel workshops, local catchment workshops to identify waterway uses and values (including human uses and aquatic ecosystem values), surveys on waterway uses/values, public release of draft WQIP documentation for review and continued availability of final WQIP documents on the Creek to Coral website www.creektocoral.org.

Further details of consultation activities during the WQIP formulation are provided in Attachment 1. Additional reports used in the development of the WQIP are provided on the Creek to Coral website at Mackay region.

Consultation during the development of the Mackay-Whitsunday region WQIP was managed by Reef Catchments (the Mackay-Whitsunday regional NRM body) with the department involved at the various EVs workshops. Main consultation activities in WQIP development occurred throughout 2006 and 2007. The draft WQIP was released for public comment in March 2008 and was finalised in May 2008. Key elements of the consultation included a steering committee, local catchment workshops to identify waterway uses and values (including human uses and aquatic ecosystem values), a healthy waterways working group (focussed on aquatic ecosystem health and water quality), industry stakeholder interests, and broader consultation/awareness activities, including television advertisements.

Further details of consultation activities during the WQIP formulation are provided in Attachment 1. For more information on the WQIP and ongoing engagement activities in the region, refer to the Reef Catchments website at www.reefcatchments.com.au.

2.2 Round 2: Public consultation on draft EVs documents and plans

Subsequent to the completion of WQIPs, the department prepared draft EVs documents and plans in the format required for inclusion under the EPP Water. This included updates to EVs, WQOs and mapping based on further review and updated water quality data. The department also coordinated additional technical reporting on macroinvertebrates and groundwater, which was undertaken by Department of Science Information Technology Information and the Arts (DSITIA). Draft EVs documents and plans were published for public review and comment on the department's website. Links to draft materials were provided on the Queensland Government Get Involved website and the Reef Catchments and Townsville City Council websites. The department also held numerous meetings with stakeholders advising of the draft EVs materials and emails advised on how to make submissions on the materials. Further detail is provided below.

2.2.1 Information sessions: December 2011–January 2012

Prior to the release of draft EVs materials, the department held regional briefing sessions with industry, government and environment interests on 7 December 2011 (Mackay) and 14 December 2011 (Townsville). It also met with Brisbane stakeholders on various dates between December 2011 and January 2012. Group briefing sessions in Townsville and Mackay used Powerpoint materials to outline the approach to developing the draft EVs documents and plans; give preliminary EVs and WQOs information; obtain feedback and answer questions from attendees.

In addition to the group briefing sessions, regional meetings were held with individual stakeholders. Representatives who attended group or individual briefings included:

- Townsville: Defence, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), Townsville City Council, Sucrogen, Sunmetals, Xstrata.
- Mackay: Mackay Sugar, Mackay Conservation Group, industry and government representatives.
- Brisbane: Agforce, CaneGrowers, Queensland Energy Resources (QER), Queensland Seafood Industry Association.

Following these consultations the department developed draft EVs documents in preparation for public release, as

outlined below.

2.2.2 Public release of draft EVs documents, briefing sessions

2.2.2.1 Release of draft EVs documents

The department released draft EVs documents for public review on 5 June 2012. The documents were published on the department's website and on the Queensland Government Get Involved website. Information linking to the department's website was also placed on the Reef Catchments' and Townsville City Council websites. An electronic submission form was made available on the department's website to assist submission makers in providing comments. A dedicated email address and phone contact details were also provided. Extracts from the websites are shown in Attachment 2 (Townsville) and Attachment 3 (Mackay-Whitsunday). An example of the submission form is provided in Attachment 4.

Emails were sent to stakeholders advising of the availability of the draft EVs documents and inviting comment/submissions. Additional emails were sent by Reef Catchments and Creek to Coral advising their respective contacts about the draft EVs documents.

Additional technical water quality reporting on macroinvertebrates and groundwater was provided by DSITIA to the department in July 2012. This information was included on the department's website, and the closing date for submissions was extended from 31 July until 31 August 2012. The department, Reef Catchments and Creek to Coral provided advice about the additional reporting and the extension of submission timelines to contacts via email.

The **Townsville** region draft EVs documents and plans included:

- Black River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (June 2012).
- Ross River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (June 2012).
- Plans for Black River Basin, Ross River Basin, Magnetic Island, coastal waters, groundwaters (June 2012).
- Draft macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines for Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions (July 2012).
- Draft groundwater guidelines for Townsville region (July 2012).
- Economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values in the Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon (Marsden Jacob Associates report, March 2010, chapter 8).

The **Mackay-Whitsunday** region draft EVs documents and plans included:

- Proserpine River, Whitsunday Island and O'Connell River basins draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (June 2012).
- Pioneer River and Plane Creek basins draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (June 2012).
- Plans for Proserpine, Whitsunday Island and O'Connell River Basins, Pioneer River and Plane Creek basins, coastal waters (June 2012).
- Draft macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines for Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions (July 2012).
- Economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values in the Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon (Marsden Jacob Associates report, March 2010, chapter 6).

2.2.2.2 Briefing sessions on draft EVs documents

As part of the public release, the department held group briefings and individual meetings with interested parties directly and through the Reef Catchments and Creek to Coral programs. These were held between June and August 2012. Regional sessions included individual meetings and group briefings held in Townsville on 11 July 2012 (organised with Creek to Coral) and in Mackay on 18 July 2012 (organised with Reef Catchments). At the group briefings, PowerPoint presentations and copies of draft EVs documents/plans were used, advice was provided on how to make a submission, and participant questions were addressed. Representatives who attended the information sessions included:

- Townsville (11 July 2012): AECOM consultants, Agforce, BHP Cannington, North Queensland Conservation Council, Port of Townsville Ltd, Sunmetals, Townsville City Council, Xstrata.
- Mackay (18 July 2012): AECOM consultants, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, Central Queensland University, Mackay Conservation Group, Mackay Regional Council, Mackay Sugar, North Queensland Bulk Ports, Queensland Government agencies.
- Brisbane: Queensland Energy Resources (QER), Agforce, CaneGrowers, Queensland Conservation,

Queensland Farmers Federation, Queensland Resources Council, Queensland Seafood Industry Association, World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Queensland Government agencies.

Additional contact was made by phone and email with other parties.

In response to the draft EVs materials, submissions were received from a range of industry, government, conservation and natural resource management interests. Section 3 outlines main Issues raised in submissions and the department's response.

2.3 Round 3: Post-submission feedback

After the public review/submission period closed, the department reviewed submissions and, where necessary, followed up with submitters, via email, phone and meetings to work through issues raised. This was an iterative process extending from September 2012 to July 2013.

Table 1 summarises the issues raised in submission and the department's response.

2.4 Round 4: Final review of draft EPP Water schedule documents and plans

Between July and August 2013, the department released revised extracts of draft schedule 1 documents/plans for external final review/comment. Where applicable, refinements were made to the draft EVs documents based on feedback.

3 Stakeholder submissions and responses

3.1 Submissions on draft EVs and supporting documents

Fourteen submissions were received for both the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday region draft EVs documents from industry, government, natural resource management and conservation interests.

3.2 Submission comments and response to issues raised

Table 1 summarises the main issues raised and the department's response. While submitters primarily made comments on a specific region, some issues raised were applicable to both project areas (central column of table). Commonly raised issues included the need for further refinement of WQOs based on further local water quality data, how WQOs are used in licensing and amending EVs applying to waters.

Table 1 Summary of issues raised in submissions and response to issues

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Consultation | | |
| Request for extension of timelines to comment on draft EVs documents. | T, MW | Agreed. Public review period 6–30 June 2012 was extended to 31 August 2012. Project team accepted submissions after this date. Project team liaised (meetings, email, phone) with submitters until August 2013. |
| Request to use additional property level information on EVs, water quality. | T, MW | Agreed. Project team accepted additional information from submitters. Further details outlined in sections below. |
| Need to communicate outcomes to ensure community and industry awareness of EVs/WQOs. | T, MW | Agreed. Department's EVs webpage has been updated to cover all EVs projects through Queensland. Links to partners (e.g. council, regional NRM bodies) also included on the department's website. EVs fact sheets have been updated and are published on the department's website. |
| Human Use EVs (e.g. agriculture, recreation, industry) | | |
| Mining use: need to recognise mining as an EV. | T, MW | Mining is an existing inclusion under Industrial use EV. Industrial use EV definition in schedule documents has been updated to include specific reference to mining and minerals refining/processing. |
| Activities and water uses in port precincts, State Development Area (SDA): need to recognise industrial use, and reflect restrictions on other uses. | T, MW | Amended. Industrial water use EV has been added to port coastal waters and State Development Area (SDA). EVs applying within port and SDA have been revised in consultation with submitters. Notes have been added to EVs tables to refer readers to relevant ports websites, security advice documents (restricted areas) and landuse plans for further information on activity restrictions. |
| Need to clarify port lands/SDA boundaries, and revise EVs, WQOs within these boundaries. Port and industrial areas have fewer applicable EVs, and EVs/WQOs should reflect history of industrial use. | T, MW | Amended. Townsville amendments (documents and plans) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New port water quality sub-zone established. This includes a local set of EVs (including industrial use) and total suspended solids WQOs based on analysis of additional local water quality monitoring data. Land area of port has been mapped as an |

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|--|---------------------------|---|
| | | <p>excluded water type (no EVs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDA boundaries now shown, with EVs (including industrial use) and WQOs specified in this area. <p>Hay Point and Mackay Port amendments (documents and plans)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New port water quality sub-zone (including Mackay, Hay Point ports) established. Includes a local set of EVs and turbidity WQOs for coastal waters based on analysis of additional local water quality monitoring data. Land area of ports mapped as an excluded water type (no EVs). Waters of Abbot Point (including those parts of Edgecumbe Bay within the port boundaries) have been removed from the Mackay-Whitsundays EVs/WQOs project area. |
| Recreation, drinking water, human consumer, aquaculture EVs—various locations: review and revise EVs. | T, MW | <p>Amended in various locations.</p> <p>Updates made based on submission comments and additional review of local information.</p> |
| Primary recreation EV in estuarine waters: review primary recreation relative to risk from crocodiles. | T, MW | <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Primary recreation removed from estuarine waters (crocodile habitat). Additional notes made to EVs tables concerning risks from dangerous animals, based on National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) <i>Guidelines for managing risks in recreation water</i>.</p> |
| Identify secondary recreation where primary recreation is identified. | T, MW | <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Amendments made to EVs tables.</p> |
| Aquatic ecosystem EVs | | |
| High ecological value (HEV) and slightly disturbed (SD) waters: review across geographic scope of project. | T, MW | <p>Amendments made the designations of HEV and SD waters in Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions following review - where applicable.</p> |
| Coastal (marine) waters—plume line mapping update. | T, MW | <p>Latest available plume line mapping (derived from GBRMPA mapping) has been used in all relevant maps.</p> |
| Management intent should be to restore and enhance ecological resilience in light of climate change and development pressures. | T, MW | <p>Management intent framework is outlined in the <i>Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i>. Schedule documents and plans show different management intent and corresponding WQOs.</p> |
| Groundwater: presence of stygofauna should be considered when establishing groundwater EVs, WQOs. | T, MW | <p>Groundwater WQOs are included in schedule documents where data (physico-chemical, biological) available.</p> |
| Water Quality Objectives (all waters) | | |
| WQOs should be developed for the resource sector—mining, coal seam gas (CSG), given increasing development through the region. | T, MW | <p>Progressing.</p> <p>The department is continuing to progress EVs and WQOs for regions throughout Queensland (refer to the department's website for status). The department's <i>CSG water management policy (2012)</i> deals specifically with CSG, and is available from the department's website.</p> |
| Need for further work to develop locally relevant water quality guidelines as a basis for water quality objectives—current numbers still rely on Queensland or national (ANZECC) guidelines. | T, MW | <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Local water quality information has been sourced and used where available for deriving local water quality guidelines.</p> <p>Additional water quality monitoring required in key development areas. Options are under review.</p> <p>(EPP Water schedule documents can be amended over time as more local water quality information becomes available.)</p> |

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Priority should be given to establishing permissible levels and thresholds of toxicants of contaminants where currently not determined. | T, MW | Under review. Toxicant WQOs are based on WQIP information, local data, values contained in <i>Water quality guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park (2010 edition)</i> , and the ANZECC (2000) <i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for fresh and Marine Water Quality</i> . The ANZECC (2000) water quality guidelines are currently under national review. Any resultant revisions to trigger values (threshold levels) of toxicants will be included in Schedule 1 documents. |
| Cumulative impacts need to be considered in developing EVs/WQOs. | T, MW | WQOs relate to the quality of water required to protect identified EVs— notwithstanding the nature of emission sources affecting receiving water quality. An understanding of cumulative impacts is essential in analysing current water quality condition and trend. |
| Coastal (marine) water herbicide/pesticide WQOs: Apply HEV (99%) species protection values for identified pesticides in coastal waters, excluding Tributyltin to be applied at 95% protection in ports, boat harbours, approved spoil disposal areas. | T, MW | Amended. Marine herbicide/pesticide WQOs for Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (WHA) coastal waters have been updated using values in the <i>Water quality guidelines for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park</i> (typically 99% species protection for identified agricultural chemicals). Tributyltin WQOs in ports, boat harbours, marinas, approved spoil disposal areas: 95% species protection. Other toxicant (e.g. metals) WQOs largely as per draft EVs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port and other specified sub-zones, marinas, approved spoil grounds: typically based on ANZECC 95% species protection (99% species protection for a small number of toxicants with toxicity or bioaccumulative effects). • Other coastal waters outside the above area: typically ANZECC 99% species protection. |
| Water Quality Objectives (WQOs): Townsville | | |
| Use of local data. Need to derive local WQOs reflecting local conditions. Need to develop an integrated program leading to local WQ guidelines. | T | Additional water quality data has been used as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on ionic indicators (e.g. sodium, magnesium) has been sourced from government datasets in the northern region and has been added to the Townsville schedule 1 documents. • Townsville City Council local water quality data, associated with its receiving environment monitoring program (REMP), has been used in relevant waterways of the Ross River Basin. • Shoalwater Bay stream reference site data has been used for a small number of indicators in Ross River Basin. Additional water quality monitoring required in key areas. Options are under review. |
| Groundwater WQOs: No anomalies identified. Further sampling in areas subject to higher development pressure (e.g. coastal) supported. | T | Noted. Groundwater report for Townsville-Wet Tropics has been updated by DSITIA and included on the department's website. |
| Freshwater macroinvertebrate WQOs: recommend review the scope of Black River macroinvertebrate WQOs, and undertake further samples (to improve sample size). | T | Agreed. Advice from DSITIA is that there is insufficient data to incorporate into EPP Water Townsville documents. DSITIA has updated the macroinvertebrate report for both regions, and this is on the department's website. |
| Freshwater herbicide WQOs: should be set at the limits of detection (most stringent), in recognition of cumulative impacts of multiple toxicants. | T | There were insufficient data to derive local toxicant WQOs in Townsville fresh waters. EVs schedule documents use ANZECC 99% species protection for SD/HEV waters and ANZECC moderately disturbed (typically 95%) species protection for other waters. |

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Coastal/marine water physico-chemical WQOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need to be soundly based, and recognise natural variability. • reflect locally occurring conditions in Cleveland Bay (particularly naturally high turbidity levels). | T | Additional local water quality monitoring data was used to derive local WQOs for Port waters (TSS), and in Cleveland Bay and Halifax Bays. Notes to WQOs tables identify that coastal water clarity WQOs (e.g. TSS) are highly variable depending on weather, and are long-term values that will be naturally exceeded in the short term. WQO compliance tests are outlined in Appendix D of the Queensland Water Quality Guidelines, and summarised in the schedule documents: median values of test site data (minimum five independent samples) are assessed against WQOs. Additional water quality monitoring required in key areas. Options are under review. |
| Coastal water heavy metal WQOs: Cleveland Bay: Why do cadmium and nickel WQOs get 99% species protection level when the management intent is moderately disturbed? (usually 95% species protection level). | T | For a small number of toxicants with toxicity or bioaccumulation effects (including cadmium and nickel), the ANZECC guidelines adopt 99% species protection values. (refer ANZECC Table 3.4.1—grey shaded cells, and section 8.3.7—chemical review). |
| Marine water heavy metal WQOs: Cleveland Bay and Ross Creek-Copper. The current copper levels consistently exceed the draft WQO for Copper. Recommend review. | T | Current water quality may exceed the WQOs dependent on condition and trend. In the absence of local monitoring/effects data, WQOs are based on the ANZECC (2000) 95% species protection level value. The ANZECC (2000) water quality guidelines are currently under national review. Any revisions to trigger values (threshold levels) of priority toxicants resulting from the review will be included in Schedule 1 documents. |
| Water Quality Objectives (WQOs): Mackay-Whitsunday | | |
| Estuarine waters: use local data to derive water quality objectives. | MW | Local water quality monitoring data (REMP) was used to derive estuarine WQOs for Louisa and Cabbage Tree Creek catchments. |
| Port area marine water physico-chemical WQOs: use local port data to derive water quality objectives. Need to consider seasonal variations. | MW | Local water quality monitoring data was used to derive turbidity WQOs for coastal waters. Dry and wet season WQOs based on the data were adopted for waters in and between Mackay and Hay Point port water quality sub-zones, and south of Hay Point sub-zone (refer Pioneer Basin schedule document and plan). |
| Monitoring | | |
| Need for further work to develop locally relevant water quality guidelines as a basis for water quality objectives. Current numbers still rely on Queensland or national guidelines. | T, MW | Agreed. Additional water quality monitoring required in key development areas. Options are under review. EPP Water schedule documents can be amended over time as local water quality data becomes available. |
| Monitoring data and other information associated with EVs, WQOs should be readily available. | T, MW | Agreed. The following information is available. EVs documents, plans and datasets are available on the department's website (search for 'EPP Water schedule 1'). Information on water quality monitoring programs is available from the 'Queensland waterways monitoring portal' and the 'water monitoring data portal' available through www.nrm.qld.gov.au For access to marine monitoring program reports and related datasets refer to the following websites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.e-atlas.org.au (browse under 'funding program' for 'reef rescue marine monitoring program'). • www.gbrmpa.gov.au (search for 'Annual Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring' and 'research publication series'). |

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • www.reefplan.qld.gov.au (including report cards). |
| Benchmark quality of marine waters against the Great Barrier Reef condition in 1981 (declared as a World Heritage Area). | T, MW | Details on the health of the reef and changes since a 2009 baseline are available from report cards on the ReefPlan website at www.reefplan.qld.gov.au . Also refer to above web links for further technical reporting and data. |
| What is scale of monitoring (e.g. to address impacts from different locations, activities in a catchment.). How does monitoring address cumulative impacts? | T, MW | Refer to above web links, including report cards available under the ReefPlan for further details on monitoring. Release and receiving waters monitoring informs cumulative impact assessments. |
| Mapping | | |
| Boundaries of port areas, water types, catchments. | T, MW | Amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional sub-zones added for Ports in both Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions • Hay Point Port area included within one catchment • Cleveland Bay sub-zone boundaries refined • SDA boundary shown for Townsville • local revisions made to water types. |
| Boundaries of HEV/SD waters. | T, MW | Boundaries revised based on submissions and further review (various). |
| Human use EVs. | T, MW | Mapping of EVs revised in response to submissions and further review (various locations) e.g. removal of primary recreation from estuaries. |
| Study area extent. | MW | Project area boundary revised southwards to exclude Edgecumbe Bay (subsequent EVs project). |
| Policy, planning, updates | | |
| How are EVs, WQOs considered under water resource plans, regional plans, other legislation? | T, MW | Information on how EVs can be used in decision making is available from <i>Effects of Scheduling Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i> , published on the department's website. The <i>Water Act</i> (section 47) includes a requirement for the Minister to consider EPP Water EVs when preparing a draft water resource plan. |
| EVs and WQOs should maintain GBR World Heritage Area (WHA) values, matters of national environmental significance under EPBC Act, and align with other relevant programs, e.g. ReefPlan. | T, MW | EVs and WQOs inform the ReefPlan and the implementation phase of WQIPs to reduce pollutant loads entering Great Barrier Reef waters. Additionally, the Australian and Queensland governments and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority are undertaking a comprehensive strategic assessment of the Great Barrier Reef WHA and the adjacent coastal zone. It will address impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), including world heritage properties, nationally threatened species and ecological communities. Information on the Queensland component (focusing on coastal elements) is on the department's website (under 'coastal management'). |
| Specific management actions should be developed to ensure EVs are maintained and WQOs achieved. Processes associated with adaptive management should involve community, industry, local government, other stakeholders. | T, MW | EVs and WQOs inform WQIPs, ReefPlan and related initiatives that include management actions to address land based sources of water pollution, and associated monitoring. Report cards on progress are available from www.reefplan.qld.gov.au . WQIPs are subject to periodic review and updating. WQIP consultation frameworks typically include a range of sectorial interests. |
| EVs/WQOs should be reviewed/updated every five years. | T, MW | Scheduled EVs and WQOs can be updated as new information becomes available, for example, updated water quality monitoring data. |

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| Risks to EVs and WQOs should be identified and ranked according to threat. | T, MW | EVs and WQOs apply to receiving waters. Assessments of risks to reef water quality have been completed as part of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan and reported in the <i>2013 Scientific consensus statement – landuse impacts on Great Barrier Reef water quality and ecosystem condition</i> , available from the ReefPlan website at www.reefplan.qld.gov.au |
| Licensing and operational issues | | |
| WQOs definition should refer to them as receiving water quality objectives. Concern that WQOs will be applied as discharge standards (for point source and urban stormwater) instead of receiving water quality objectives. | T, MW | Schedule 1 documents have been amended to clarify that WQOs are long-term goals applying to receiving waters, and are not individual point source emission objectives. The explanatory notes to the EPP Water (page 9) state that: ' <i>Water quality objectives are not individual point source emission objectives but the receiving water quality objectives</i> '. |
| Concern that adoption of WQOs may impact on future permitting arrangements for environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) e.g. wastewater treatment plants, particularly if WQOs are tighter than existing water quality. Need for flexibility in interpretation of WQOs. | T | Schedule 1 documents note that WQOs are long-term receiving water quality objectives. The EHP technical guideline ' <i>Wastewater releases to Queensland waters</i> ' (available from the the department's website) provides further information on the process of decision making regarding licensing releases. |
| Lack of detail in schedule 1 documents about how to apply WQOs in decision making (e.g. mixing zones). | T | EPP Water schedule 1 documents identify EVs and WQOs to be considered in planning and decision making. The EHP technical guideline ' <i>Wastewater releases to Queensland waters</i> ' (available from the department's website) provides guidance on how WQOs (and other considerations) are used in decision making. |
| Will new WQOs lead to amendments to existing licences? Implications for existing environmental authority (EA) approvals. | T, MW | The department's fact sheet ' <i>Effects of Scheduling Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009</i> ' provides further information on how EVs/WQOs are called up in decision making processes (available from the department's website). |
| Compliance monitoring: will new WQOs lead to additional monitoring requirements? Do all indicators need to be monitored? (e.g. even if not relevant to a particular operator). There are cost implications for this. | T | No. No change to existing water quality monitoring programmes is required. |
| Pesticide limits of detection/reporting: in some cases the WQOs are less than the limits of detection/reporting for pesticides/metals. | T | Comments noted. Refer to ANZECC (2000) section 8.3.5.4, which recognises the potential for this situation to occur. Toxicant WQOs are based on ANZECC (2000) 95% or 99% species protection values. Based on the detection limits identified in recent Queensland coastal water quality monitoring reports ² , the majority of WQOs are greater than detection limits for specified indicators. |
| Implications if monitoring results exceed the WQOs, particularly if the operator does not use that particular pollutant. | | WQOs apply to receiving waters and are long-term objectives, not emission or release standards. WQO compliance is against annual median value of test site. Current water quality may be above or below the WQO. In many regions natural resource management (NRM) programs are underway to improve current water quality. |

| Issue raised | Project area ¹ | Response to issue |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Socio-economic assessment | | |
| Socio-economic benefits of good water quality in Reef region need to be better articulated in order to obtain wider support for EVs, WQOs. | T, MW | <p>The department commissioned independent consultants (Marsden Jacob Associates) to review the economic and social implications of protecting EVs in Great Barrier Reef waters. A draft of the report was released for public comment on the department's website.</p> <p>An updated version of the report (March 2013) is available on the department's website.</p> |
| Economic assessment fails to consider industry and mining sectors and effects on those sectors if activities (e.g. dredging) were suspended due to non-compliance with WQOs. | T | <p>The consultant has updated the information in the final report in response to a number of submissions across both regions. This is available on the department's website.</p> <p>WQOs apply to receiving waters and are long-term objectives, not emission or release standards.</p> <p>WQO compliance tests are outlined in Appendix D of the Queensland Water Quality Guidelines, and summarised in the schedule documents.</p> <p>Current water quality may be above or below the WQO.</p> <p>In many regions NRM/industry programs are underway to improve current water quality.</p> |
| Draft socio-economic report is from 2010. Much of the data used is becoming dated, and lacks consideration of Reef Rescue Program initiatives. | T | The consultant has updated the information in the final report in response to a number of submissions across both regions. |

Notes:

1. T: Townsville region; MW: Mackay-Whitsunday region

2. Toxicant publication sources:

- CSIRO (2012) Metals in the waters and sediments of Port Curtis, Queensland.
- DSITIA (2012) Eleventh update on the water quality of Port Curtis and tributaries including data collected in the week of 1 August 2012.
- Kennedy, K, Devlin, M, et al (2012) Pesticide monitoring in inshore waters of the Great Barrier Reef using time integrated monitoring techniques (2010–11). Reef Rescue Marine Monitoring program. University of Queensland National Research Centre for Environmental Toxicology (Entox)

4 Project documents and reports

The documents and reports for these projects are published on the department's website. Key documents, maps and supporting reports available from the website include:

Townsville region:

- Black River Basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (August 2013), and plans.
- Ross River Basin Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (August 2013), and plans.
- Economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values in the Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon (Marsden Jacob Associates draft report March 2013, chapter 9: Townsville).
- Queensland Wet Tropics and Black and Ross catchments: Regional chemistry of the groundwater (DSITIA, June 2013).

Mackay-Whitsunday region:

- Proserpine River, Whitsunday Island and O'Connell River basins draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (August 2013), and plans.
- Pioneer River and Plane Creek basins draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives (August 2013), and plans.
- Macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines: Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions (DSITIA, August 2013).
- Economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values in the Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon (Marsden Jacob Associates draft report, March 2013, chapter 7: Mackay-Whitsunday).

Attachment 1 WQIP consultation activities

Townsville WQIP consultation activities (TCC Creek to Coral)

| Consultation | Details | Dates |
|---|---|---|
| Creek to Coral Steering Committee | Peak stakeholder bodies in region | Periodical meetings to update on progress |
| Traditional Owners Management Group (TOMP) Also addressed through catchment stakeholder EVs workshops, advertisement Burdekin Dry Tropics Traditional Owner Management Group (TOMG): meeting and presentation | Traditional owners (public notice, April 2008—see advertisement below) | 11 September 2007 Advertisement: April 2008 EVs workshops: 22, 23, 24 July 2008 18 November 2008 |
| Townsville: Freshwater technical workshops on aquatic ecosystem values. Links to Burdekin WQIP workshop held on 11/10/07 | Invited technical experts | 12 October 2007 |
| Townsville: Estuarine/coastal technical workshop Jointly run with Burdekin WQIP area | Invited technical experts | March 2008 |
| Stakeholder surveys on EVs | Distributed by TCC via email to stakeholders | February–April 2008 |
| Stakeholder regional EVs meetings: aquatic and human use EVs: three meetings with representatives organised through TCC (Creek to Coral): | Magnetic Island (Arcadia) Bluewater (north) Townsville (Annandale) | Magnetic Island 22/7/08 Bluewater 23/7/08 Townsville 24/7/08 |
| Provision of draft meeting outcomes to participants for feedback | Sent by email to participants and placed on Creek to Coral website | September 2008—human use January 2009—human use and aquatic ecosystem |
| Draft WQIP released for public comment | Public notice (Townsville Bulletin—see advertisement below). Draft WQIP placed on TCC and Creek to Coral websites | 12 June 2009—7 July 2009 (and beyond) |
| Final WQIP plan | On TCC Creek to Coral website | February 2010 |

Source: Adapted from information in Black-Ross WQIP (2010) and supporting documents

Are you interested in the water quality of our waterways and marine areas?

Townsville City Council, through its Creek to Coral initiative, has developed a Draft Water Quality Improvement Plan for Townsville.



The plan identifies the condition of our waterways and marine environment, the pressures they face and the actions we can take. Interested individuals and groups are invited to provide feedback on the draft plan. Copies are available from 12 June at www.creektocoral.org.au/draftwqip or www.townsville.qld.gov.au or can be requested from Townsville City Council's Customer Service Centres by phoning 07 4727 9000. **Submissions will be received until 7 July 2009.**



40 10 09 011

TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Traditional owner public notice

PUBLIC NOTICE TO TRADITIONAL OWNERS OF THE COUNTRY ::

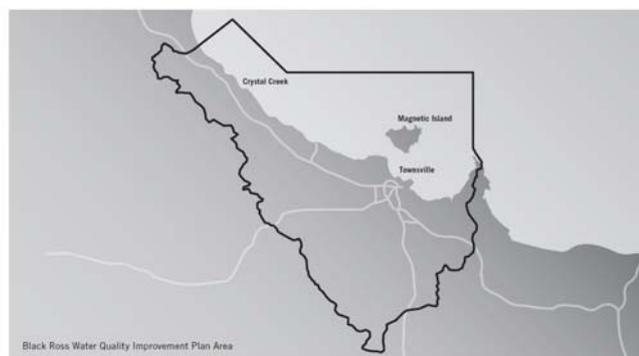
From Crystal Creek to Cape Cleveland and from Herveys Range to the coast, Magnetic Island and surrounding waters, the estuaries and marine waters of Cleveland Bay and Halifax Bay.

The New Townsville City is developing a Water Quality Improvement Plan and would like the input of Traditional Owners to help identify the environmental and cultural values of the waterways, estuaries and marine waters of the study area (see map). The Water Quality Improvement Plan will then look at ways that the areas identified can be protected and managed to improve the water quality.

Traditional Owners interested in being involved in identifying these values are asked to contact Chris Manning (Water Quality Improvement Plan Project Manager) to register their interest. Chris can be contacted on 47278660 or chris.manning@townsville.qld.gov.au

Further information on the WQIP can be found at www.creektocoral.org

A survey is also available on the website and can be downloaded and sent back. In addition, there will be community consultation workshops in mid May to identify environmental values and uses of the waterways in the study area.



THE NEW
TOWNSVILLE CITY

1 CITY
COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
DIRECTION

Mackay-Whitsunday WQIP consultation activities (Reef Catchments)

| Consultation | Details | Dates |
|--|--|---|
| Management practice workshops: Initial workshops with technical and practical experts from cane, grazing and horticulture | Define management practices that improve water quality | Jan–Dec 2006 |
| Current understanding: Initial presentations to Traditional Owners, catchment groups industry, government and other stakeholders, Local Marine Advisory Committee, newspaper advertisement, Mackay Whitsunday Management Committee | Raise awareness of WQIP process, synthesise current understanding of water quality and foster community input to the WQIP | Jan–June 2006 |
| Environmental Values (EVs): establish three community catchment reference panels (CRPs) to advise on EVs, television news article, newspaper article | Three panels established with assistance from Whitsunday, Pioneer and Sarina catchment and landcare organisations. Establish framework for obtaining information on EVs (including aquatic ecosystem high ecological value waters and human uses of waters) | Jan–April 2007 |
| EVs identification: Three regional meetings with relevant catchment reference panels (CRPs). | Catchment reference panel reps identified human use and aquatic ecosystem EVs. Attendees organised by Reef Catchments NRM | Proserpine 7/2/07 Sarina 8/2/07 Mackay 15/2/07 |
| Draft EVs review/confirmation: three further meetings with relevant CRPs on draft EVs (aquatic and human use) and draft catchment management area reports | Catchment reference panel reps review/confirm human use and aquatic ecosystem EVs | Sarina 14/11/07 Mackay 15/11/07 Proserpine 16/11/07 |
| Water Quality Objectives: Catchment Reference Panels, Scientific Taskforce, industry focus groups, industry representative | Obtain feedback on draft WQOs | Mid 2006 |
| Current pollutant loads: Scientific Taskforce | Ensure sound science and technical advice underpins the WQIP | 2006–2007 |
| Management actions: Industry focus groups, industry representatives, local government | Develop management actions and implementation tables for WQIP | Late 2007 |
| Social and economic impact: Industry focus groups, industry representatives, local, Queensland and federal government | Provide social and economic data to the WQIP | Late 2007 |
| Implementation plan: government and industry stakeholders | Meetings with government and industry stakeholders to develop a practical implementation plan strategy | Late 2007 |
| Final WQIP: Web site, Catchment Reference Panels, Scientific Taskforce, industry focus groups, industry representatives | Provide opportunity for feedback on WQIP | Early 2008 |
| Other awareness | Mackay Show stall, Reefwatch advertisements (six television commercials showcasing local landholders and groups working to improve water quality and the Great Barrier Reef) | 2008 |

Source: Adapted from Mackay Whitsunday WQIP (2008) and supporting documents

Attachment 2 Townsville draft EVs website content (2012)

Queensland Government Get Involved website

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Queensland Government's 'Get Involved' website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/g/consultation/525/view.html>. The website's navigation bar includes 'Queensland Government', 'For Queenslanders', 'Business and industry', 'Contact us', and a search box. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Queensland Government home > Get involved > Your say > Consultations > Water quality—Townsville region waters'. A left-hand sidebar titled 'Consultations' lists several categories with expandable arrows: 'Agency Regulatory Simplification Plans', 'Building certification—Guidelines for inspection of class 2 to 9 buildings', 'Notifiable work—cutting the red tape for the plumbing and drainage approval process', 'Research into Government information and services', 'Transport and Main Roads Reconciliation Action Plan 2010-2012 review', and 'Underground Water Impact Report—Surat Cumulative Management Area'. The main content area features the title 'Water quality—Townsville region waters' and the text: 'Have your say on the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Townsville region waters. Consultation documents, including the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Townsville region have been released for comment.' Below this, a 'Have your say' section includes a link: 'Visit the Department of Environment and Heritage website and have your say.' On the right side, there are three utility boxes: 'You are not logged in.' with 'Register' and 'Log in' links; 'Comment now' with a 'yes we're OPEN' badge, a submission deadline of '31 July 2012, 11.59pm.', and a 'Tell your friends' link; and 'Contact details' with the phone number '(07) 3224 7443' and the website URL 'www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/water/environmental_values_environmental_protect'.

townsville region waters | Your say | Queensland Government - Department of Environment and Resource Management

http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/g/consultation/525/view.html

Queensland Government For Queenslanders Business and industry Contact us Search website

↑ Queensland Government home > Get involved > Your say > Consultations > Water quality—Townsville region waters

Consultations

- > Agency Regulatory Simplification Plans
- > Building certification—Guidelines for inspection of class 2 to 9 buildings
- > Notifiable work—cutting the red tape for the plumbing and drainage approval process
- > Research into Government information and services
- > Transport and Main Roads Reconciliation Action Plan 2010-2012 review
- > Underground Water Impact Report—Surat Cumulative Management Area

Water quality—Townsville region waters

Have your say on the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Townsville region waters.

Consultation documents, including the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Townsville region have been released for comment.

Have your say
[Visit the Department of Environment and Heritage website](#) and have your say.

You are not logged in.
[Register](#)
[Log in](#)

Comment now

Submit your response now.
Closes 31 July 2012, 11.59pm.

[Tell your friends](#)

Contact details

(07) 3224 7443
www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/water/environmental_values_environmental_protect

Townsville City Council community consultation website

http://www.townsville.qld.gov.au/community/sustainability/Pages/wqip.aspx

Tools Help

Port Curtis Integrated Monit... H&U enviro burke releases CABINET statements home get involved C/G website SPY 4-11 HES GBR wetlands EPPW explain notes http-w... UERM intranet (2) QLD gov

Plan

Home Feeds (3) Read Mail

Townsville

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Arts and Culture
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For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
For culturally diverse people
For families
For people with a disability
For seniors
For women
For young people
School holiday programs
Sustainability programs
Urban Nature
Citysolar
Solar Learnscape
Office of Sustainability
Climate change
Creek to Coral Program
Eco-catchment tours
Integrated Sustainability initiatives
Earth Hour 2012
Clean Up Australia and Great Barrier Reef Clean Up

WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Home > Community Programs > Sustainability programs > Water Quality Improvement Plan



Townsville's Water Quality Improvement Plan

The Black Ross (Townsville) Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) has been prepared by Creek to Coral and its partners with funding from the Australian Government's Coastal Catchments Initiative (CCI) program. The WQIP is based on Total Water Cycle Management principles and focuses principally on the management of urban and peri-urban stormwater related issues. To find out more about Townsville's WQIP click [here](#).

Draft Environmental Values and water quality objectives for Townsville region waters

The Queensland Government has established draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the waters of the Townsville region under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009. Waters include those of the Black and Ross River basins, Magnetic Island and coastal waters.

These are derived from information in the Black-Ross Water Quality Improvement Plan (Townsville City Council, 2010), available local water quality data, Great Barrier Reef water quality guidelines, and the Queensland water quality guidelines. Interested parties are invited to have their say on the draft documents.

Submissions close on 31 July 2012.

For more information go to the Queensland Governments Website for the Water Quality Improvement Plan.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

...strong environmental management supporting sustainable economic development.

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Environmental values - Environmental Protection (Water) Policy

- [Archived information](#)
- [Consultation on EVs projects, 2004-2006](#)
- [Contacts](#)
- [Fitzroy Basin environmental values](#)
- [Mackay-Whitsunday region draft environmental values](#)
- [Townsville region draft environmental values](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)
- [Related links](#)
- [Schedule 1 of EPP Water \(including plans\)](#)
- [Spatial \(GIS\) datasets](#)
- [State Planning Policy for Healthy Waters](#)
- [Total Water Cycle Management](#)
- [Urban stormwater planning guidelines](#)
- [Water quality improvement plans](#)
- [What are EVs & WQOs](#)

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Draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Townsville region waters - have your say

The closing date for submissions on the draft Townsville environmental values documents has been extended until 31 August 2012.

- The [draft macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines for the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions](#) (PDF, 115K)* is now available for review.
- The [draft groundwater guidelines for Townsville region](#) (PDF, 1.3M)* is also available for review.

▼ [How to make a submission](#)

Consultation documents, including the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Townsville region have been released by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for comment.

The department is seeking [submissions](#) on the consultation documents. **Submissions close on 31 August 2012.** Submissions will be considered by the department when finalising the environmental values and water quality objectives for the waters of the Townsville region.

The project area is shown in the accompanying maps. It covers:

- the Black River Basin, including fresh waters and estuaries of the Black River, Bluewater Creek, Rollingstone Creek and Crystal Creek catchments, and adjacent coastal waters, including Halifax Bay
- the Ross River Basin, including fresh waters and estuaries of the Bohle River, Ross River, Stuart Creek, Alligator Creek and Magnetic Island catchments, and adjacent coastal waters, including Cleveland Bay.

The draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the Townsville region are derived from information in the Black Ross (Townsville) Water Quality Improvement Plan (2010), available local water quality data, Great Barrier Reef water quality guidelines, and the Queensland water quality guidelines. The Plan was prepared under the Townsville City Council's Creek to Coral program. For further details and reporting visit the [Creek to Coral program](#) website.

The department's consultation documents include:

1. [Black River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012](#) (PDF, 437K)* and
 - [Black River Basin map](#) (PDF, 2.1M)*
 - [Coastal waters map](#) (PDF, 1.7M)*
2. [Ross River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, May 2012](#) (PDF, 474K)* and
 - [Ross River Basin map](#) (PDF, 2.4M)*
 - [Magnetic Island map](#) (PDF, 1.4M)*
 - [Coastal waters map](#) (PDF, 1.7M)*
3. [The economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values in Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon](#) (PDF, 2.1M)*, Regional Chapter 8, Marsden Jacob Associates March 2010.
4. [Draft macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines for the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions](#) (PDF, 115K)*
5. [Draft groundwater guidelines for Townsville region](#) (PDF, 1.3M)*

The draft environmental values for the Townsville region reflect the use and high regard the local communities have for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Black and Ross River basins; for example, recreation, drinking water, stock watering, irrigation, industry and aquatic ecosystems.

Water quality objectives are the chemical, physical and biological measures of water quality and aquatic ecosystem health that must be maintained or achieved in order to protect the identified environmental values.

Under the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009*, environmental values and water quality objectives for fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters inform statutory planning and decision making for development approvals and environmental authorities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and certain approvals under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. Environmental values and water quality objectives also inform non-statutory water quality planning and decision making by a range of authorities and the community.

How to make a submission

Please ensure that you have made a proper submission:

- state the grounds of the submission, and the facts and circumstances to support these grounds
- ensure your submission is lodged by the closing date.

Information considered confidential should be identified. The department will try to maintain confidentiality; however submissions may be accessed under the *Right to Information Act 2009*.

Complete the [submission form](#) (Word, 69K) and:

Email: evinfo@derm.qld.gov.au

Post:

Att: Jim Fewings
Water Quality
Department and Environment and Heritage Protection
PO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Fax: (07) 3406 2190

If you have any problems making a submission please contact the project manager:

Phone: (07) 3224 7443

Fax: (07) 3406 2190

Email: evinfo@derm.qld.gov.au

Related information

- [Submission form - Draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Townsville region waters](#)
- [Draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters-have your say](#)

* Requires [Adobe Reader](#)

= Requires [Microsoft Office files viewer](#)

Last updated 26 July 2012

Attachment 3 Mackay-Whitsundays draft EVs website content (2012)

Queensland Government Get Involved website

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Queensland Government's 'Get Involved' website. The page is titled 'Water quality—Mackay—Whitsunday region waters'. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.getinvolved.qld.gov.au/gi/consultation/526/view.html>. The website header includes the Queensland Government logo and navigation links for 'For Queenslanders' and 'Business and industry'. A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Queensland Government home > Get involved > Your say > Consultations > Water quality—Mackay—Whitsunday region waters'. On the left, a 'Consultations' sidebar lists various topics, with 'Water quality—Mackay—Whitsunday region waters' highlighted. The main content area contains the following text: 'Water quality—Mackay—Whitsunday region waters', 'Have your say on the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters.', 'Consultation documents, including the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Mackay-Whitsunday region have been released for comment.', and 'Have your say: Visit the [Department of Environment and Heritage website](#) and have your say.' On the right, there are three sections: 'You are not logged in.' with 'Register' and 'Log in' links; 'Comment now' with a 'yes we're OPEN' sign and text stating 'Submit your response now. Closes 31 July 2012, 11.59pm.' and a 'Tell your friends' link; and 'Contact details' with the phone number '(07) 3224 7443' and the website URL www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/water/environmental_val_ues_environmental_protect. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows several open applications and the system clock.

Reef Catchments website

Values for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters - Queensland Government

http://reefcatchments.com.au/draft-environmental-values-for-mackay-whitsunday-region-waters/

es Tools Help

DEHP templates etc M-W WQIP report BR WQIP final web page htt... CABINET statements home ecomaps Qld waterways monitoring ... EHP EPPW EVs page estab evs guideline 2012 ht...

for Mackay-Whitsunday r...

Contact SEARCH...

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC

REEF CATCHMENTS

HOME ABOUT LAND WATER COASTS & MARINE FIRE PESTS COMMUNITY NEWS & PUBLICATIONS EVENTS

Draft Environmental Values for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters

News, Water News Comments Off

Home \ Draft Environmental Values for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters

The Queensland Government has established draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the waters of the Mackay-Whitsunday region under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009. These are derived from information in the Mackay-Whitsunday Region Water Quality Improvement Plan (Reef Catchments; 2008), available local water quality data, Great Barrier Reef water quality guidelines, and the Queensland water quality guidelines. Interested parties are invited to have their say on the draft documents. **Submissions close on 31 August 2012.** For more information go to http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/water/environmental_values_environmental_protection_water_policy/mackay_evs_wqos.html

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- Contacts
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- Mackay-Whitsunday region draft environmental values
- Townsville region draft environmental values
- Frequently asked questions
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- Spatial (GIS) datasets
- State Planning Policy for Healthy Waters
- Total Water Cycle Management
- Urban stormwater planning guidelines
- Water quality improvement plans
- What are EVs & WQOs

Home > Topics > Management and regulation > Water quality and ecosystem health > Environmental values - Environm

Draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters - have your say

The closing date for submissions on the draft Mackay-Whitsunday environmental values documents has been extended until 31 August 2012.

The draft macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines for the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions (PDF, 115K)* is now available for review.

How to make a submission

Consultation documents, including the draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Mackay-Whitsunday region have been released by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for comment.

The department is seeking submissions on the consultation documents. Submissions close on 31 August 2012. Submissions will be considered by the department when finalising the environmental values and water quality objectives for the waters of the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

The project area is shown in the accompanying maps. It covers:

- the Proserpine River, Whitsunday Island and O'Connell River basins, including the fresh waters and estuaries of Proserpine, Andromache, Gregory and O'Connell rivers, Repulse, Myrtle, Lethe Brook, Thompson, Eden Lassie, Waterhole, Blackrock, St Helens, Murray, Constant and Reliance creeks, and Whitsunday Island catchments, and adjacent coastal waters
- the Pioneer River and Plane Creek basins, including the fresh waters and estuaries of the Pioneer River, and Upper Cattle, Blacks, Bakers, Sandy, Alligator, Cabbage Tree, Plane, Cape, Rocky Dam, Marion, Gillinbin, West Hill, Carmila and Flaggy Rock creeks catchments, and adjacent coastal waters.

The draft environmental values and water quality objectives for the Mackay-Whitsunday region are derived from information in the Mackay-Whitsunday Region Water Quality Improvement Plan (2008), available local water quality data, Great Barrier Reef water quality guidelines, and the Queensland water quality guidelines. The Plan was prepared by Reef Catchments (the natural resource management organisation for the region) and its stakeholders. For further details and reporting visit the Reef Catchments website.

The department's consultation documents include:

- Proserpine River, Whitsunday Island and O'Connell River basins draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012 (PDF, 519K)* and Proserpine, Whitsunday Island and O'Connell basins map (PDF, 2.7M)*
 - Coastal waters map (PDF, 1.5M)*
- Pioneer River and Plane Creek basins draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012 (PDF, 523K)* and Pioneer River Basin and Plane Creek Basin maps (PDF, 2.2M)*
 - Coastal waters map (PDF, 1.5M)*
- The economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values in Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon (PDF, 2.1M)*, Regional Chapter 6 Marsden Jacob Associates March 2010.
- Draft macroinvertebrate water quality guidelines for the Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday regions (PDF, 115K)*

The draft environmental values for the Mackay-Whitsunday region reflect the use and high regard the local communities have for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Proserpine, Whitsunday Island, O'Connell, Pioneer and Plane Creek basins; for example, recreation, drinking water, stock watering, irrigation, industry and aquatic ecosystems.

Water quality objectives are the chemical, physical and biological measures of water quality and aquatic ecosystem health that must be maintained or achieved in order to protect the identified environmental values.

Under the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009*, environmental values and water quality objectives for fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters inform statutory planning and decision making for development approvals and environmental authorities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, and certain approvals under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*. Environmental values and water quality objectives also inform non-statutory water quality planning and decision making by a range of authorities and the community.

How to make a submission

Please ensure that you have made a proper submission:

- state the grounds of the submission, and the facts and circumstances to support these grounds
- ensure your submission is lodged by the closing date.

Information considered confidential should be identified. The department will try to maintain confidentiality; however submissions may be accessed under the Right to Information Act 2009.

Complete the [submission form](#) (Word, 69K)+ and:

Email: evinfo@dem.qld.gov.au

Post:

Att: Jim Fewings
Water Quality
Department and Environment and Heritage Protection
PO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Fax: (07) 3406 2190

If you have any problems making a submission please contact the project manager:

Phone: (07) 3224 7443

Fax: (07) 3406 2190

Email: evinfo@dem.qld.gov.au

Related information

- [Submission form - Draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Townsville region waters](#)
- [Draft environmental values and water quality objectives for Mackay-Whitsunday region waters-have your say](#)

+ Requires [Adobe Reader](#)

+ Requires [Microsoft Office files viewer](#)

Last updated 26 July 2012

Attachment 4 Submission forms for draft EVs (2012)

These forms were included on the department's website to assist reviewers in making comments on Townsville and Mackay-Whitsunday draft EVs. Both forms were the same format. The Townsville form is attached.

Department of Environment
and Heritage Protection

Submission Form

Townsville Region Waters—Environmental Values, Water Quality Guidelines and Water Quality Objectives

This submission form should be used to provide comments on any of the following three draft consultation documents dealing with the draft environmental values (EVs) and water quality objectives (WQOs) for the fresh waters, estuaries and coastal waters of the Townsville region:

1. Black River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012, Black River Basin map and Coastal waters map.
2. Ross River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012, Ross River Basin map, Magnetic Island map and Coastal waters map.
3. The economic and social Impacts of protecting environmental values in Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon, Regional Chapter 8, Marsden Jacob Associates March 2010.

How to make your submission

Submissions must be received in writing by 31 August 2012

Submissions can be made via email or in writing. To complete this form electronically:

- save this submission form as a new file
- click on the grey highlighted sections and enter your comments
- save file and return by one of the three options below.

Email: evinfo@derm.qld.gov.au
Fax: (07) 3406 2190
Post: Att: Jim Fewings
Water Quality
Department and Environment and Heritage Protection
PO Box 2454
Brisbane Qld 4001

Please call the Project Manager on (07) 3224 7443 with any queries relating to the submission process.

Note: Submissions will be reviewed and, where appropriate, changes will be made to final EVs based on submissions received. Final reports will be made available on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's web site.

Your contact details (optional)

Please provide your contact details below (to add text electronically, click on grey boxes below).

Organisation/affiliation: _____

Email address: _____

Please provide comment on any of the following reports:

1. **Black River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012, Black River Basin map and Coastal waters map.**

Any comments on draft Environmental Values (EVs)?

Any comments on draft water quality objectives (WQOs)?

Comments on other water quality management issues:

2. Ross River Basin draft Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, June 2012, Ross River Basin map, Magnetic Island map and Coastal waters map.

| |
|--|
| <p>Any comments on draft Environmental Values (EVs)?</p> |
| <p>Any comments on draft water quality objectives (WQOs)?</p> |
| <p>Comments on other water quality management issues:</p> |

3. The economic and social Impacts of protecting environmental values in Great Barrier Reef catchment waterways and the reef lagoon, Regional Chapter 8, Marsden Jacob Associates March 2010

Any comments on economic and social impacts of protecting environmental values:

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback.