Report Card 2025

Key Messages & **Catchment Summaries**

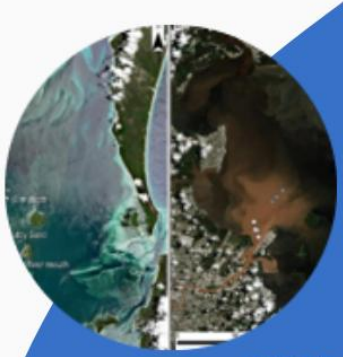
2025

2020

25 years of ecosystem health data for **South East Queensland**!

2015

2010



2005

Healthy Land & Water

Citation

Report Card Catchment Summaries 2025, Healthy Land & Water

Acknowledgements

The material contained in this publication is produced for general information only. It is not intended as professional advice on specific applications. It is the responsibility of the user to determine the suitability and appropriateness of the material contained in this publication to specific applications. No person should act or fail to act on the basis of any material contained in this publication without first obtaining specific independent professional advice. Healthy Land & Water and the participants of our network expressly disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything done by any such person in reliance, whether in whole or in part, on this publication. The information contained in this publication does not necessarily represent the views of Healthy Land & Water or the participants of our network.

Traditional Owner acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the place we now live in has been nurtured by Australia's First Peoples for tens of thousands of years. We believe the spiritual, cultural, and physical consciousness gained through this custodianship is vital to maintaining the future of our region.

For further information about Healthy Land & Water, please email info@hlw.org.au or telephone (07) 3177 9100.

Funding partners

reportcard.hlw.org.au

Table of Contents

1 About the Ecosystem Health Monitoring & Report Card Program 6
2 Results – What do they mean? 7
2.1 Environmental condition score: 7
2.2 Socio-economic rating: 7
Bay indicators 8
Catchment indicators 8
3 Snapshot: 2025 Results on a page 9
4 Snapshot: 2025 Key messages 10
Report Card 2025 10
Algal bloom risk 10
Catchment-derived sediment pollution remains a key threat 10
Critical ecological assets are being lost 11
Urban estuaries of the region are under increasing pressure from nutrient pollution 11
A good year for freshwater stream health 11
Moreton Bay - an internationally recognised ecosystem under pressure 12
Socio-economic benefits of waterways 12
25 year celebration! The people behind the Ecosystem Health Monitoring and Report Card program. 12
Regional priorities 13
5 Overall Moreton Bay 15
5.1 Moreton Bay overall: Environmental condition: very good 16
5.2 Moreton Bay overall: Social and economic benefits: N/A 16
6 Western Bay 17
6.1 Western Bay: Environmental condition: excellent 18
6.2 Western Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A 18
7 Central Bay 19
7.1 Central Bay: Environmental condition: excellent 20
7.2 Central Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A 20
8 Eastern Bay 21
8.1 Eastern Bay: Environmental condition: very good 22
8.2 Eastern Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A 22
9 Southern Bay 23
9.1 Southern Bay: Environmental condition: fair 24
9.2 Southern Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A 24
10 Broadwater 25
10.1 Broadwater: Environmental condition: very good 26
10.2 Broadwater: Social and economic benefits: N/A 26
11 Noosa catchment 27
11.1 Noosa catchment: Environmental condition: very good 28
11.2 Noosa catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 29
11.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 30
12 Maroochy catchment 31

12.1 Maroochy catchment: Environmental condition: fair 32
12.2 Maroochy catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 33
12.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 34
13 Mooloolah catchment 35
13.1 Mooloolah catchment: Environmental condition: fair 36
13.2 Mooloolah catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 37
13.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 38
14 Pumicestone catchment 39
14.1 Pumicestone catchment: Environmental condition: very good 40
14.2 Pumicestone catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 41
14.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 42
15 Caboolture catchment 43
15.1 Caboolture catchment: Environmental condition: fair 44
15.2 Caboolture catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 45
15.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 46
16 Pine catchment 47
16.1 Pine catchment: Environmental condition: fair 48
16.2 Pine catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 49
16.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 50
17 Lower Brisbane catchment 51
17.1 Lower Brisbane catchment: Environmental condition: poor 52
17.2 Lower Brisbane catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 53
17.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 54
18 Redland catchment 55
18.1 Redland catchment: Environmental condition: fair 56
18.2 Redland catchment: Social and economic benefits: high 57
18.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 58
19 Mid Brisbane catchment 59
19.1 Mid Brisbane catchment: Environmental condition: poor 60
19.2 Mid Brisbane catchment: Social and economic benefits: high 61
19.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 62
20 Upper Brisbane catchment 63
20.1 Upper Brisbane catchment: Environmental condition: poor 64
20.2 Upper Brisbane catchment: Social and economic benefits: high 65
20.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 66
21 Stanley catchment 67
21.1 Stanley catchment: Environmental condition: very good 68
21.2 Stanley catchment: Social and economic benefits: high 69
21.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 70
22 Lockyer catchment 71
22.1 Lockyer catchment: Environmental condition: poor 72
22.2 Lockyer catchment: Social and economic benefits: high 73
22.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 74
23 Bremer catchment 75

23.1 Bremer catchment: Environmental condition: poor 76
23.2 Bremer catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 77
23.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 78
24 Logan catchment 79
24.1 Logan catchment: Environmental condition: poor 80
24.2 Logan catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 81
24.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 82
25 Albert catchment 83
25.1 Albert catchment: Environmental condition: fair 84
25.2 Albert catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high 85
25.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 86
26 Pimpama-Coomera catchment 87
26.1 Pimpama-Coomera catchments: Environmental condition: fair 88
26.2 Pimpama-Coomera catchments: Social and economic benefits: very high 89
26.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 90
27 Nerang catchment 91
27.1 Nerang catchment: Environmental condition: poor 92
27.2 Nerang catchment: Social and economic benefits: extremely high 93
27.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 94
28 Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment 95
28.1 Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchments: Environmental condition: fair 96
28.2 Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchments: Social and economic benefits: extremely high 97
28.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits 98
29 Appendix 1: Summary of Environmental Condition Grades and Waterway Benefit Rating scores from 2015 to 2025 99

1 About the Ecosystem Health Monitoring & Report Card Program

The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) is one of the most comprehensive waterway monitoring programs in Australia. It delivers an annual regional assessment of the environmental condition and benefits of waterways for South East Queensland's catchments.

The EHMP commenced in the late 1990s, and the Report Card was introduced in 2000 marking this year as the Report Card's 25th year.

An assessment is undertaken for each of South East Queensland's 18 major catchments, five zones in Moreton Bay, Broadwater, and Islands. Over the years, the EHMP has included monitoring at 312 freshwater, estuarine, marine, and event monitoring sites throughout the region.

The results are compiled, analysed and summarised in a biennial Report Card, which can be accessed here: **reportcard.hlw.org.au**. It includes:

- **Environmental condition scores** (0 to 1) [previously this was reported in grades (A-F) 2000 – 2022].
- **Social and economic benefits** that waterways provide to local communities (1- 5 star rating), broadening the program's focus to encompass additional pressures and understand the links between water quality and waterway benefits provided to the community [added in 2015, making 2025 the 10th year these extra measures were introduced].
- In 2022 **Cultural Resource Management Indicators** were included in the Report Card. This Indicator is now included within the Stewardship Report, which was first produced in 2024 under the broader EHMP & Report Card program initiative.

A summary of the Environmental Condition Scores and Waterway Benefit Ratings can be found in **Appendix 1.**

The EHMP and Report Card program is delivered under a partnership between the Queensland Government (Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation), the Local Governments of South East Queensland, water utilities (Urban Utilities, Unitywater) and the regional natural resource management body for South East Queensland, Healthy Land & Water. Healthy Land & Water coordinates the program on behalf of the partnership. The partnership is committed to understanding the pressures facing the region's waterways so we can better protect them for future generations. It is delivered with support from scientific expert representatives from universities (University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of Sunshine Coast, Queensland University of Technology) and the Queensland Government.

2 Results – What do they mean?

The 2025 Report Card is based on analysis of data compiled from July 2024 to June 2025.

2.1 Environmental condition score:

The Environmental Condition Score is comprised of multiple indicators, assessing key freshwater and estuarine aspects of the waterways. Indicators are assessed against established guidelines and benchmarks, resulting in a single score for each catchment or bay zone. Condition is evaluated using monitoring and modelled data.

Excellent:	Conditions meet all guidelines. All key processes are functional and critical habitats are in near-pristine condition.
Very good:	Conditions meet guidelines for most of the reporting area. Most key processes are slightly impacted, and most critical habitats are intact.
Fair:	Conditions are close to meeting guidelines in most of the reporting area. Key processes are impacted, but still functional and critical habitats are impacted.
Poor:	Conditions meet few of the guidelines in most of the reporting area. Many key processes are not functional and most critical habitats are impacted.
Very poor:	Conditions do not meet the set guidelines. Most key processes are not functional, and most critical habitats are severely impacted.

2.2 Socio-economic rating:

The **Socio-economic rating** provides an assessment of the social and economic benefits of our waterways to the community. This includes recreation, tourism, fishing, and providing clean drinking water.

Social: Measures the personal benefits of using waterways, community connection with waterways, community satisfaction with waterways, and the community's ability to access and use waterways.

Economic: Measures the financial benefits generated through the recreational use of waterways including recreational fishing, as well as the contribution the catchment makes to providing clean drinking water.

This information was collected through a range of methods, including social surveys and economic assessments.

★★★★★	**Maximum** social and economic benefits.
★★★★☆	**Very high** social and economic benefits.
★★★☆☆	**High** social and economic benefits.
★★☆☆☆	**Moderate** social and economic benefits.
★☆☆☆☆	**Minimum** social and economic benefits.

Bay indicators

Indicator		Indicator description
	**Marine water quality**	Water quality influences the distribution and abundance of aquatic species and the condition of critical habitats. Key indicators of water quality include total nitrogen, total phosphorus, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and algae (chlorophyll *a)*.
	**Estuarine wetland extent**	This indicator tracks the extent of estuarine wetlands, including mangroves, salt flat or salt marsh communities. Estuarine wetlands provide habitat for fish and invertebrates, process nutrients, protect coasts and regulate climate.
	**Seagrass extent**	This indicator tracks the extent of seagrass across different bay zones. Seagrass is a critical habitat of the bay, supporting many aquatic species, including dugong, fish, and turtles.
	**Seagrass depth range**	This indicator tracks the water depth where seagrass is growing. The depth where seagrass is growing is influenced by water quality and the amount of light reaching the seafloor.
	**Mud content**	During floods, large quantities of sediment are delivered to the bay and deposited on the seafloor, impacting key habitats and water quality. This indicator tracks the amount of mud on the seafloor through time.

Catchment indicators

Indicator		Indicator description
	**Freshwater stream health**	This indicator tracks the freshwater stream health of each catchment. Key sub-indicators of freshwater stream health include: freshwater ecosystem processes, native fish, macro-invertebrates, and water quality.
	**Catchment pollutant loads**	During rainfall and flood events, excess sediment and nutrients enter waterways from a variety of sources, including stream bank, gully and hillslope erosion, urban stormwater and run-off from development sites. This indicator tracks the quantities of fine sediment and nutrients entering waterways.
	**Estuarine water quality**	Water quality influences the distribution and abundance of aquatic species and the condition of habitats. Key indicators of water quality include total nitrogen, total phosphorus, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and algae (chlorophyll *a)*.
	**Wetland extent**	This indicator tracks the extent of both freshwater and estuarine wetlands within the catchments. Freshwater and estuarine wetlands provide critical habitat and provide important ecosystem services for people.
	**Riparian condition**	This indicator tracks the condition of riparian vegetation in catchments. Riparian zones provide habitat for many plants and animals and provide critical ecosystem services for people, including water quality regulation, nutrient cycling, flow regulation, and flood resilience.
	**Estuarine fish**	This indicator tracks estuarine fish community condition. This provides information on the functional integrity of estuaries in sustaining biodiversity and essential ecosystem services, including fisheries.

Noosa
Noosa catchment remains in very good environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Very good
Environmental condition

★★★★½
Social & economic benefits

Maroochy
Maroochy catchment remains in fair environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Mooloolah
Mooloolah catchment remains in fair environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Pumicestone
Pumicestone catchment remains in very good condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Very good
Environmental condition

★★★★½
Social & economic benefits

Caboolture
Caboolture catchment remains in fair condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Pine catchment
Pine catchment declined from very good to fair environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits remain very high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Lower Brisbane
Lower Brisbane catchment remains in poor condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Poor
Environmental condition

★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Redland
Redlands catchments remain in fair environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★½
Social & economic benefits

Stanley
Stanley catchment improved from fair to very good environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are high.

Very good
Environmental condition

★★★½
Social & economic benefits

Upper Brisbane
Upper Brisbane catchment remains in poor environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are high.

Poor
Environmental condition

★★★
Social & economic benefits

Mid-Brisbane
Mid Brisbane catchment declined from very good to poor environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are high.

Poor
Environmental condition

★★★
Social & economic benefits

Lockyer
Lockyer catchment remains in poor environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are high.

Poor
Environmental condition

★★★
Social & economic benefits

Bremer
Bremer catchment remains in poor environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

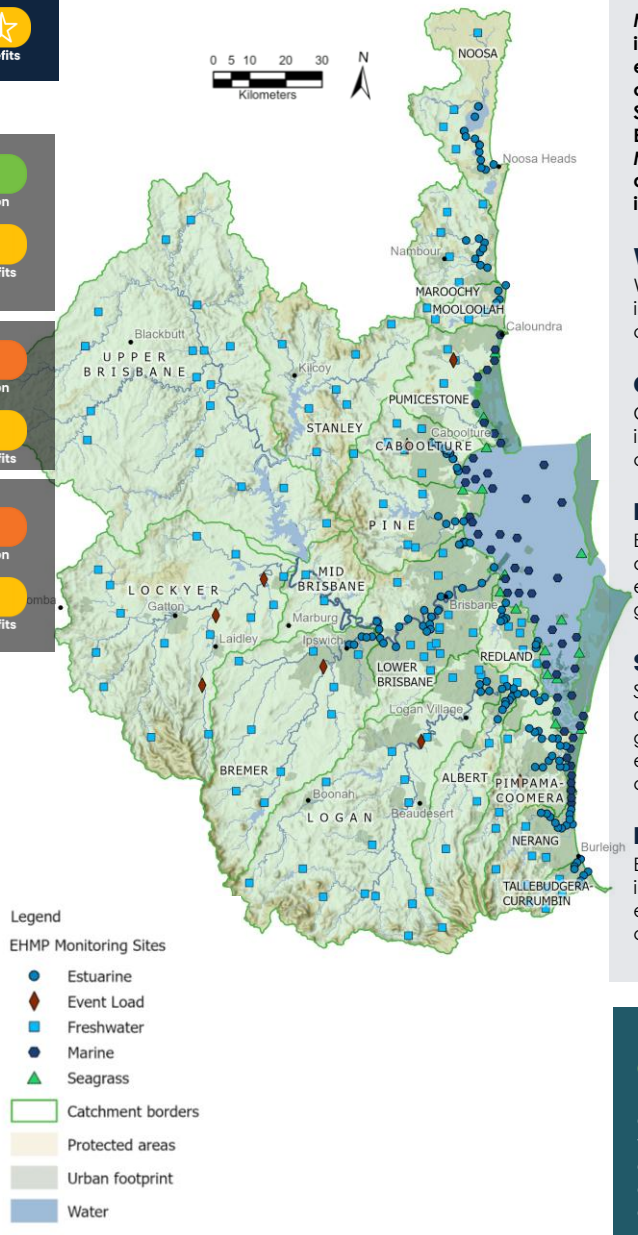
Poor
Environmental condition

★★★★½
Social & economic benefits

Logan
Logan catchment declined from fair to poor environmental condition.

Poor
Environmental condition

★★★★½
Social & economic benefits



Moreton Bay Overall
Moreton Bay remains in very good environmental condition. However, Southern Moreton Bay and Eastern Moreton Bay have declined in condition in 2025.

Very good
Environmental condition

Western Bay
Western Bay remains in excellent condition.

Excellent
Environmental condition

Central Bay
Central Bay remains in excellent condition.

Excellent
Environmental condition

Eastern Bay
Eastern Bay has declined from excellent to very good condition.

Very good
Environmental condition

Southern Bay
Southern Bay has declined from very good to fair environmental condition.

Fair
Environmental condition

Broadwater
Broadwater remains in very good environmental condition.

Very good
Environmental condition

Pimpama-Coomera
Pimpama-Coomera catchment declined from very good to fair environmental condition. Socio economic benefits are very high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★½
Social & economic benefits

Albert
Albert catchment declined from very good to fair environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are very high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Tallebudgera-Currumbin
Tallebudgera Currumbin catchments remain in fair environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are extremely high.

Fair
Environmental condition

★★★★★
Social & economic benefits

Nerang
Nerang catchment declined from fair to poor environmental condition. Socio-economic benefits are extremely high.

Poor
Environmental condition

★★★★★
Social & economic benefits

4 **Snapshot:** 2025 Key messages

Report Card 2025

In 2025 catchments of the region range from very poor to very good condition. However, since 2021 a general trend of decline in catchment and Bay zone condition has been observed.

High catchment pollutant loads in recent years, as a result of high rainfall and flood events, has placed increasing pressures on waterways. The overall water quality of many estuaries in the region has declined in 2025 as a result of increased nutrients (total nitrogen and total phosphorus) and algal growth (chlorophyll *a*). Unusually high phosphorus levels were observed in many estuaries and bay zones in 2025.

Freshwater stream health across the region is performing relatively well due to the benefits of high rainfall and flow, increasing freshwater habitat extent and connectivity. Estuarine wetland extent is relatively stable across the region, however, freshwater wetlands continue to be lost. The condition of riparian zones throughout the region ranges from very poor to fair in 2025, however, riparian woody vegetation is in decline across all catchments.

The overall environmental condition of Moreton Bay is very good in 2025. However, Southern Moreton Bay and Eastern Moreton Bay have declined in condition this year. This decline is due to a reduction in water quality and the depth of seagrass at key monitoring sites. The Gold Coast/Broadwater has remained in very good condition in 2025, however, estuarine water quality has declined from excellent to fair.

Algal bloom risk

Over the last decade, a trend of warming waters, increasing nitrogen levels and algal growth (chlorophyll *a*) has been observed across many waterways of the region. This indicates there is an increased risk of algal blooms occurring in South East Queensland if current environmental conditions persist. Over the same time period, the region has experienced significant land-use change and population growth, and more recently entered a period of above-average rainfall, increasing run-off from catchments.

Algal blooms can degrade aquatic ecosystems and pose risks to public health, potentially causing significant economic and social disruptions. South Australia and California have this year both suffered algal blooms driven by increasing water temperature and nutrients that have devastated marine life and caused massive social and economic distress and disruption.

Sources of excess nitrogen in estuaries and Moreton Bay include catchment-derived sediments and associated nutrients, agriculture, sediment run-off from construction sites, urban stormwater and treated wastewater inputs. Timely investigations are required to better understand the drivers of these trends across different waterways of the region to understand the relative risks and effectively target nutrient pollution reduction measures.

Catchment-derived sediment pollution remains a key threat

During rainfall events and floods, excess sediments and nutrients enter the region's waterways, posing a key threat to waterway health. Both the South East Queensland regional *Water Quality*

Management Strategy 1999[1] and the *Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay for People and Nature* (2025-2035)[2] highlight that catchment-derived sediment remains one of the most significant and persistent pressures on Moreton Bay. Pumicestone Passage and the Noosa estuarine lakes system are also under pressure from catchment-derived sediment pollution. Key erosion processes contributing to catchment sediment pollution include streambank erosion and gully erosion. Sediment and nutrient run-off from development sites and urban stormwater are also key sources of pollution impacting the region's waterways. Reducing catchment-derived sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, which includes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within rural catchments remains a key management priority.

Critical ecological assets are being lost

Riparian zones, the vegetated corridor adjacent to rivers and streams are vital for freshwater biodiversity and other ecosystem service values, such as drinking water supply. The condition of the riparian zones within the catchments of South East Queensland ranges from very poor to fair in 2025.

Trend analysis shows that between 2018 and 2023 riparian zone woody vegetation losses occurred across all catchments in South East Queensland. Between 2018 and 2023 there has been an overall reduction in riparian woody vegetation cover across the region of 3,767 hectares (over 5,500 football fields in area). 387 hectares (516 football fields) of remnant riparian vegetation (uncleared patches of original native vegetation) were also cleared between 2018 and 2023. Freshwater wetlands also continue to be lost. Activities, contributing to the losses include urban and housing development, linear infrastructure projects, forestry and agriculture. The link between riparian vegetation and water quality highlights the critical risks that continued riparian loss poses to the health of the region's waterways.

Urban estuaries of the region are under increasing pressure from nutrient pollution

Over the past 25 years, water quality has significantly improved in urban estuaries, largely due to historical investments in sewage treatment infrastructure. However, trend analysis shows that over the last 15 years, nitrogen concentrations have increased across several urban estuaries in the region. Notable increases have been observed in the Brisbane, Pine, and Caboolture estuaries.

Elevated nitrogen in estuaries can promote excess algal growth and contribute to aquatic ecosystem degradation. Managing nutrient inputs from urban areas, including stormwater run-off, development sites and treated wastewater is critical to maintaining and enhancing estuarine water quality.

A good year for freshwater stream health

Under natural conditions, freshwater ecosystems of the region are well adapted to the highly variable climate of South East Queensland. Ecosystem scores are high across the region and have benefited from a period of above-average rainfall.

High-flow events and sustained base-flows have maintained flow connectivity and available habitat. Fish indicators for the region are in average condition, while macroinvertebrates and water quality are generally in good condition in 2025. However, further analysis of the distribution and abundance of

[1] South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy 1999

[2] EcoFutures (2024). A Blueprint for a Sustainable Moreton Bay 2025-2035, report prepared by EcoFutures Consulting Pty Ltd for The Moreton Bay Foundation, Brisbane, Australia.

freshwater fish across the region shows that fish barriers are having a significant impact on the native fish communities.

To maintain and improve freshwater stream health, the conservation and restoration of riparian vegetation, combined with actions to restore habitat connectivity, is critical.

Moreton Bay - an internationally recognised ecosystem under pressure

Water quality across Moreton Bay has not recovered to pre-2022 levels. In 2025, high levels of algal growth (chlorophyll *a*) and total phosphorus are contributing to a reduction in water quality across the bay. Declines in water quality across the bay have been driven, in part, by excess fine sediment and nutrients delivered during recent floods, including the major floods of 2022.

The cumulative impacts of flood events, including the long-term increase in the extent of mud within the bay is also likely contributing to reductions in water quality and direct impacts on key habitats.

Over the life of the long-term monitoring program, substantial recovery of seagrass has been observed in Deception Bay and Bramble Bay. However, multiple lines of evidence indicate key seagrass meadows have declined in condition in recent years.

Socio-economic benefits of waterways

Fundamental to the South East Queensland lifestyle are cultural, social and economic benefits provided by the region's extensive, diverse, and scenic waterways (creeks, rivers, lakes, beaches). The creeks, rivers, lakes, bays and beaches of South East Queensland continue to provide significant value to the residents of the region.

Healthy and resilient catchments protect drinking water supply, maintain biodiversity, and support productive fisheries and agricultural productivity. Catchments and waterways in good or excellent environmental condition typically have higher social benefits.

South East Queensland residents report very high personal benefits (76%) and personal connection with waterways (87%), highlighting the importance of waterways to people's way of life. Rivers, creeks, lakes and beaches that are easily accessible and usable are an important place of recreation where locals can walk, cycle, swim, boat, fish, camp, picnic, socialise and relax while enjoying nature. A high proportion of residents are also very satisfied with their experience of waterways (73%) and residents report high usability (73%) and accessibility (76 %).

Over the last 10 years, there has been an increase in these key indicators, suggesting people are deriving greater value from waterways over time. However, communities are also concerned about how catchment and waterways are being managed. Areas of community concern include managing the impacts of development on waterways, managing river corridors and streambank erosion and water quality.

25 year celebration! The people behind the Ecosystem Health Monitoring and Report Card program.

25 years ago an alliance of concerned scientists, citizens and politicians collaborated to bring the first South East Queensland Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program and Report Card to life. They were united by a shared concern that the waterways of South East Queensland and the unique lifestyle

they support were under threat. The questions they posed remain just as critical today. What condition are our waterways in? what can we do about it and how will we know what is working?

Their vision was to produce a Report Card on the region's waterways that could be repeated at regular intervals. The EHMP measures the state of South East Queensland's waterways and catchments in response to a landscape of changing pressures. The program stands as one of the world's longest-running and most comprehensive regional ecosystem health monitoring programs. It has driven a raft of changes and continues to inform waterway management.

The Report Card is the culmination and public face of a massive monitoring effort aimed at allowing us to understand what is happening in our regional waterways, inspire action, guide management and track progress. Over 25 years, the Report Card records (and communicates) our wins, our losses and where we need to focus our future efforts if we want to retain the intrinsic values of the waterways of South East Queensland.

Regional priorities

Protecting and investing in waterway and catchment health is much more than protecting biodiversity. It's about protecting the benefits that nature and waterways provide to us, as residents of one of the most beautiful and biodiverse regions of the world.

The region is experiencing rapid land-use change as one of the fastest growing regions, in terms of population, in Australia. This is expected to intensify over the next 25 years. These pressures and legacy impacts of land-use change continue to place pressure on the region's waterways. The region is also experiencing the impacts of climate change. There are many actions that can be taken today to ensure the waterways of the region are protected and continue to support the well-being of people.

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and the intrinsic values of waterways and wetlands of the region.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Protect and enhance coastal and marine habitats (seagrass, coral reefs, intertidal flats) by managing pollution, development, use, and access.
- Implement comprehensive management of coastal waterways that recognises the strong connections between catchment condition and processes and the condition of estuarine and marine habitats.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Reduce catchment-derived sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, which includes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within rural catchments.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practices across grazing and horticultural landscapes of the region.
- Slow water down in the upper catchment to manage floodwater, reduce erosion, and rehydrate the landscape by protecting and increasing vegetation (especially along riparian zones) and engaging floodplains through policy, land-use planning, incentives, and compliance.

- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve land and riparian zone condition through capacity building, knowledge exchange and incentives programs.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to reduce improve conserve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil, reducing stormwater discharge.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.
- Recognise and support First Nations and their aspirations to lead the stewardship of Country and culture.
- Respect and recognise First Nations in daily work activities by getting to know and engaging with the appropriate First Nation groups who have a registered interest in your catchment. For assistance on engagement, please see the Guidance for proponents on best practice Indigenous engagement for environmental assessments under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and the AIATSIS Principles for engagement in projects concerning Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Moreton Bay overall

Northern

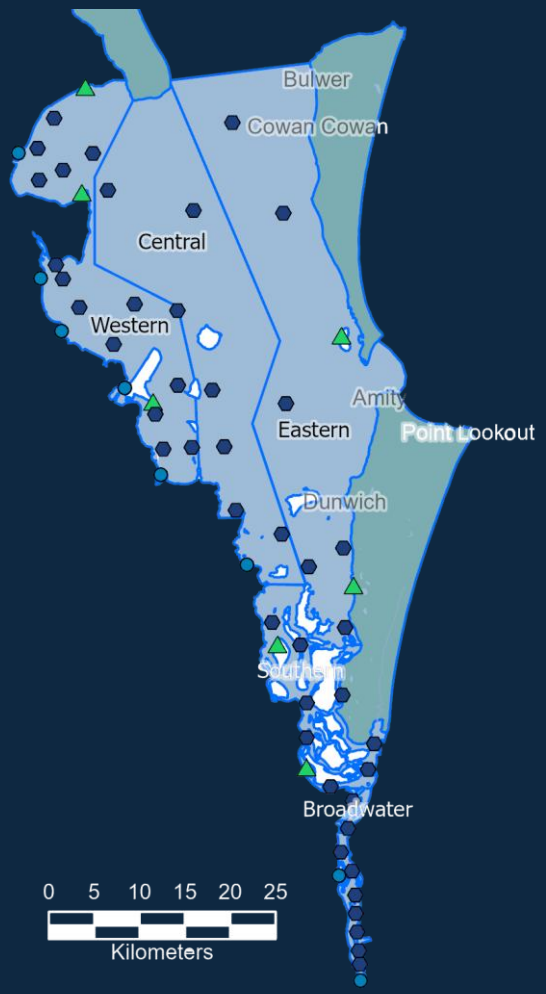
Western

Central

Southern

Bay

- Western Bay
- Central Bay
- Eastern Bay
- Southern Bay
- Broadwater



Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

5.1 Moreton Bay overall: Environmental condition: very good

Very good

The overall environmental condition of Moreton Bay is very good in 2025. However, southern Moreton Bay and eastern Moreton Bay have declined in condition this year. The 2022 floods resulted in declines of seagrass across key zones, though partial recovery has been observed in many areas in 2024. Over the longer term, the area of mud in the Bay is expanding, impacting key habitats and water quality.

Marine water quality

Water quality across the bay slightly declined but remains in excellent condition. Turbidity and total nitrogen remained in excellent condition, while algae (phytoplankton) remained in very good condition. Total phosphorus declined from excellent to very good condition.

Wetland extent

Estuarine wetland habitat extent remains excellent.

Seagrass extent

Seagrass extent remains fair overall in Moreton Bay. Recent floods (2022) resulted in a reduction in extent in some areas with partial recovery observed in 2024.

Seagrass depth range

Seagrass depth range scores for the bay have remained in fair condition. The extent of seagrass within Moreton Bay remains fair.

Mud content

In 2022 the area of mud increased, though has not been assessed in 2025. Over the long term (1998 to present), the area of mud in the bay continues to expand, especially within the eastern and southern bay regions.

5.2 Moreton Bay overall: Social and economic benefits: N/A

The Socio-Economic Benefit Rating **is not measured in bay areas**.

Western bay

Northern

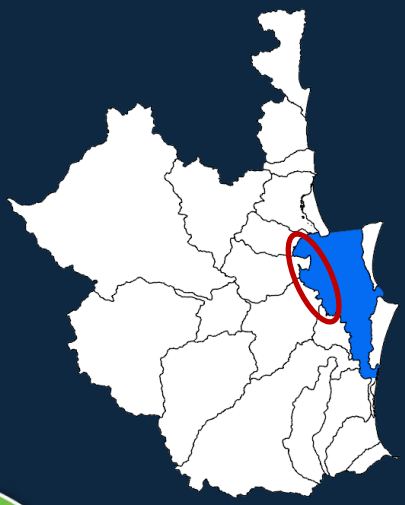
Western

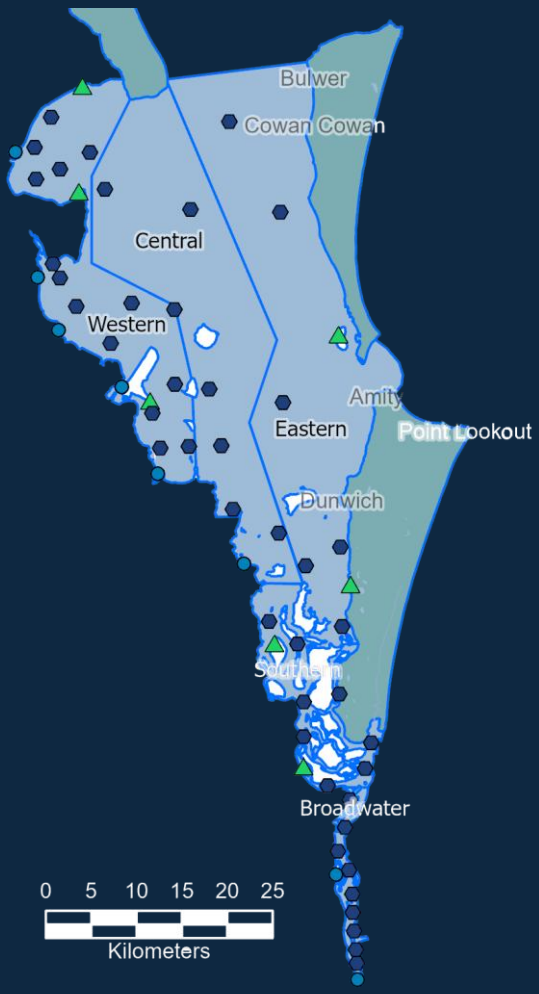
Central

Southern

Bay

- Western Bay
- Central Bay
- Eastern Bay
- Southern Bay
- Broadwater





Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

6.1 Western Bay: Environmental condition: excellent

Excellent

Marine water quality	Marine water quality remained in excellent condition. Turbidity, algae (phytoplankton), and total nitrogen all remained in excellent condition, while total phosphorus declined from excellent to very good condition, following increases in phosphorus near the mouths of rivers discharging into the bay.
Wetland extent	The extent of intertidal habitat remains excellent, with 96% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining compared to pre-clearing.
Seagrass extent	Seagrass extent remains fair in Western Moreton Bay.
Seagrass depth range	Seagrass depth range improved from fair in 2023 to very good in 2025.
Mud content	Mud content in Western Moreton Bay increased in 2022, though has not been assessed in 2025. Mud content is in excellent condition. The 2022 floods increased the area of muddy sediments across Moreton Bay, smothering previously sandy habitats.

6.2 Western Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A

The Socio-Economic Benefit Rating **is not measured in bay areas**.

Central bay

Northern

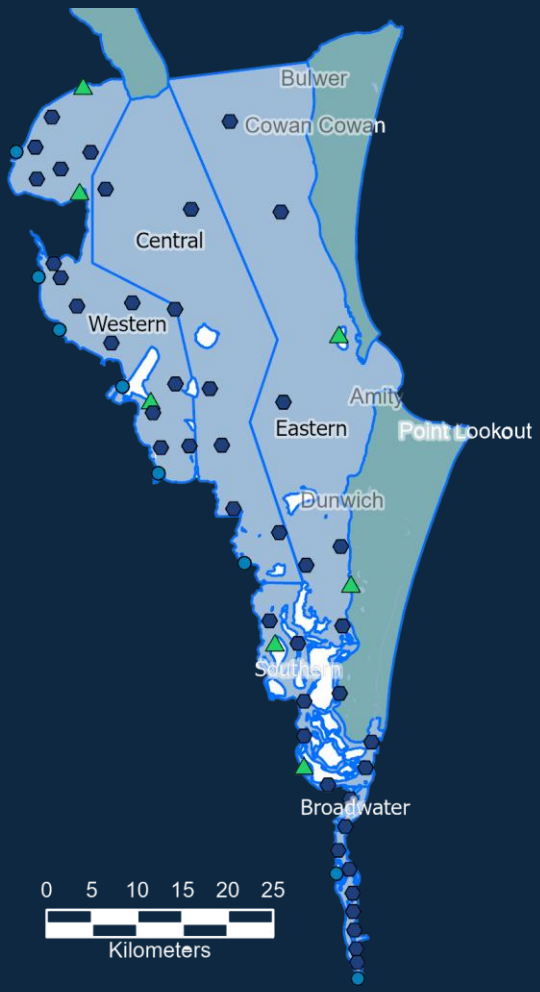
Western

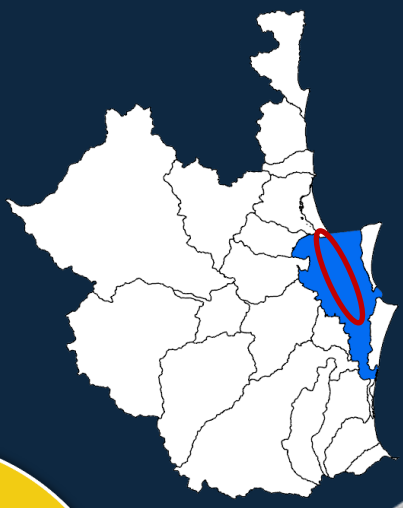
Central

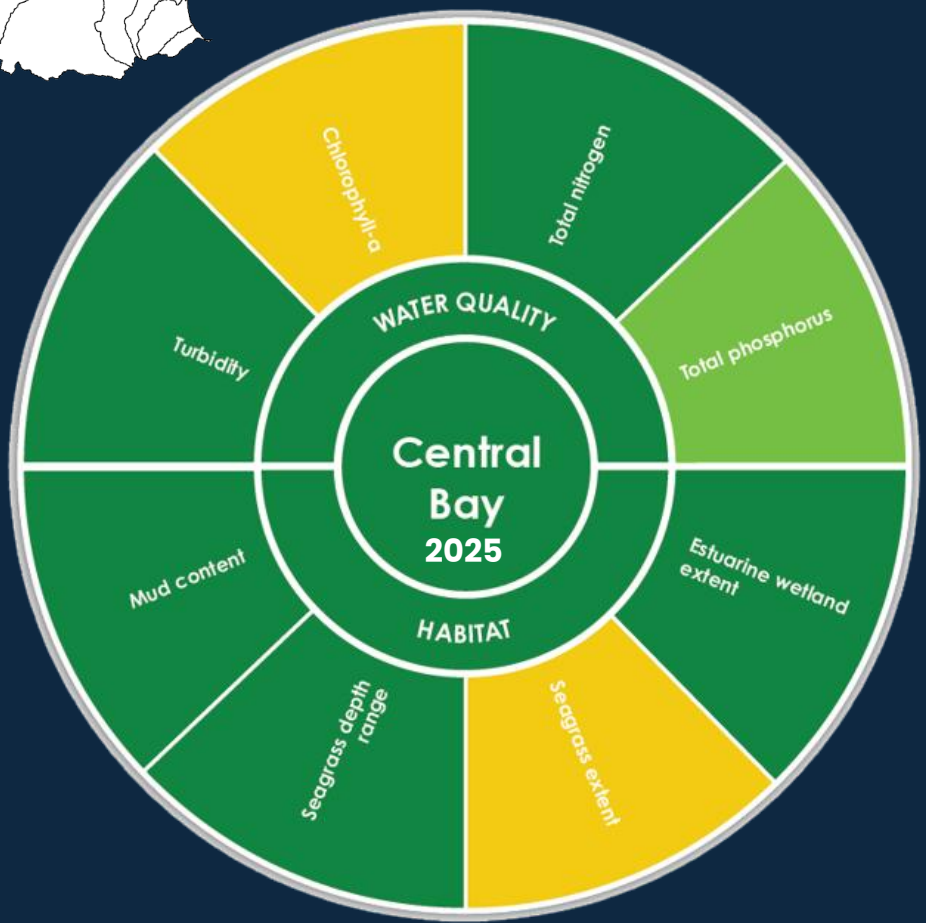
Southern

Bay

- Western Bay
- Central Bay
- Eastern Bay
- Southern Bay
- Broadwater







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

7.1 Central Bay: Environmental condition: excellent

Excellent

Marine water quality	Marine water quality remained in excellent condition. Total nitrogen improved from very good to excellent while turbidity remained in excellent condition. Total phosphorus declined from excellent to very good condition. Algae (phytoplankton) declined from very good to fair condition.
Wetland extent	The extent of intertidal wetland habitat remains excellent, with an increase in mangrove and saltmarsh extent (126%) since pre-clearing.
Seagrass extent	Seagrass extent remains fair in Central Bay.
Seagrass depth range	The depth range where seagrass is found remains excellent at Victoria Point.
Mud content	Mud content in Central Bay increased in 2022, though has not been assessed in 2025. Mud content remains in excellent condition. The 2022 floods increased the area of muddy sediments across Moreton Bay, smothering previously sandy habitats.

7.2 Central Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A

The Socio-Economic Benefit Rating **is not measured in bay areas**.

Eastern bay

Northern

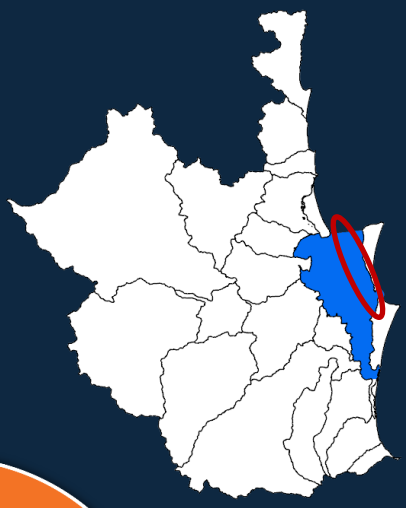
Western

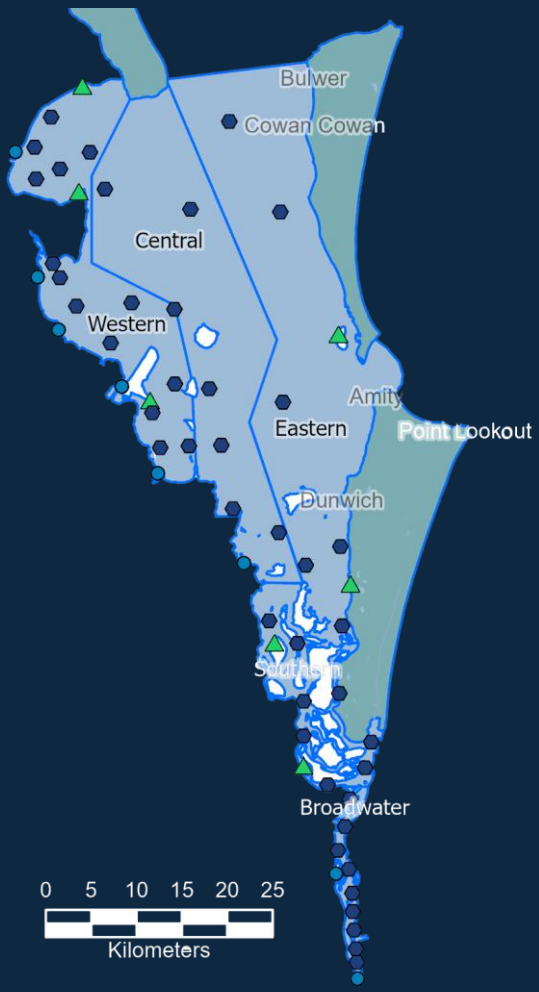
Central

Southern

Bay

- Western Bay
- Central Bay
- Eastern Bay
- Southern Bay
- Broadwater





Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

8.1 Eastern Bay: Environmental condition: very good

Very good

Marine water quality	Marine water quality declined but remains in very good condition. Total phosphorus increased but remained in excellent condition. Turbidity and total nitrogen also remained in excellent condition, while algae (phytoplankton) declined from poor to very poor condition.
Wetland extent	The Eastern Bay intertidal wetland extent remains excellent, with an increase in mangroves and saltmarsh extent in the bay zone compared to the pre-clearing extent (104%).
Seagrass extent	Seagrass extent remains excellent in Eastern Bay.
Seagrass depth range	The depth range of seagrass significantly declined from excellent to fair condition.
Mud content	Mud content remains in very good condition, though has not been assessed in 2025. The 2022 floods increased the area of muddy sediments across Moreton Bay, smothering previously sandy habitats. Muddy sediments are beginning to encroach on the typically sandy habitats of Eastern Moreton Bay, with a trend of increase in mud content at many sites since 1998.

8.2 Eastern Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A

The Socio-Economic Benefit Rating **is not measured in bay areas**.

Southern bay

Northern

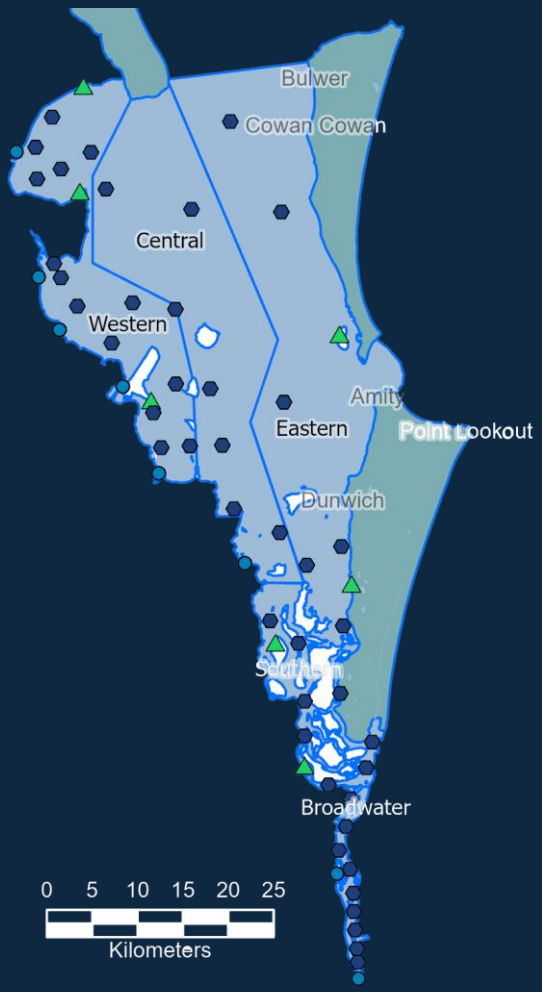
Western

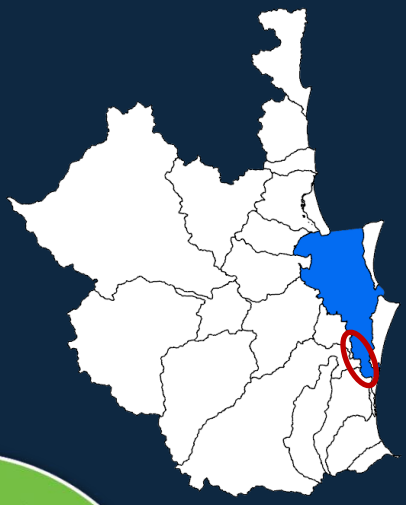
Central

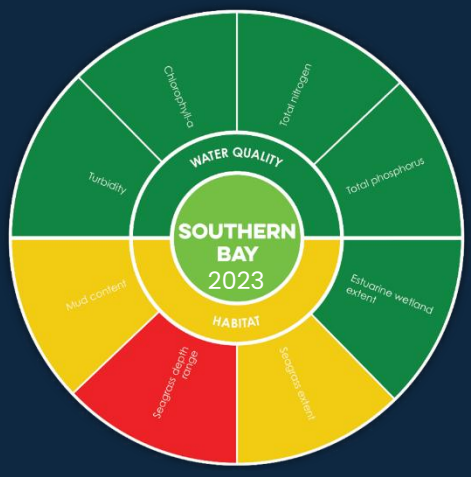
Southern

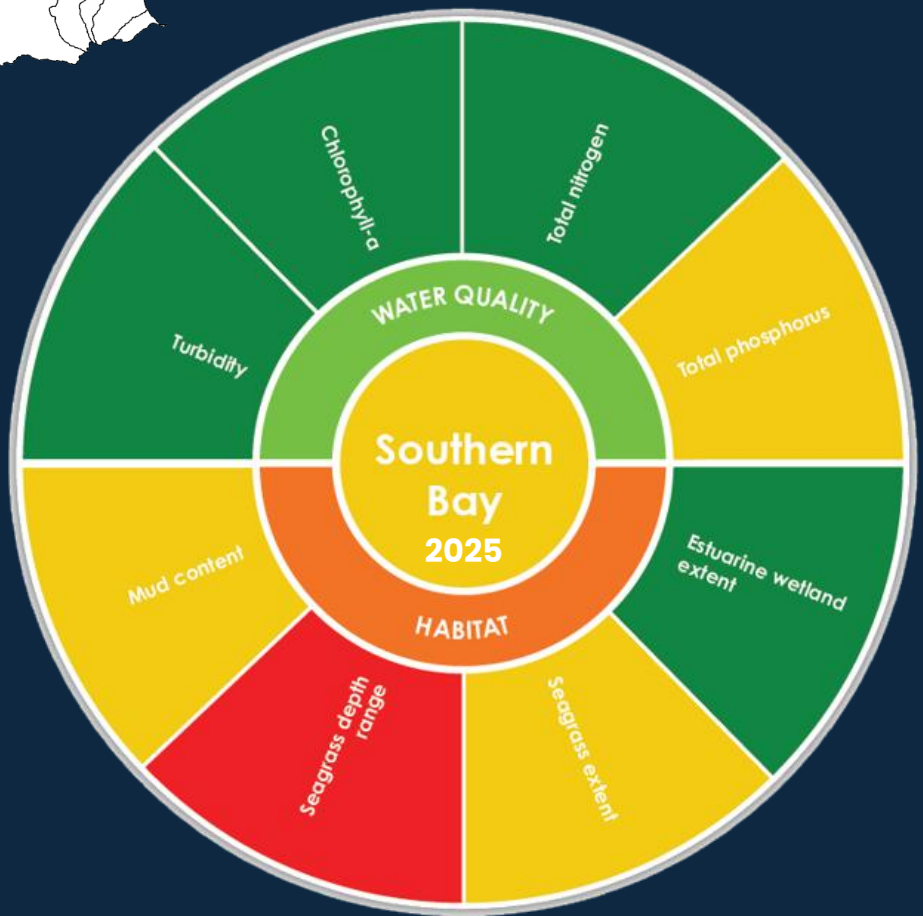
Bay

- Western Bay
- Central Bay
- Eastern Bay
- Southern Bay
- Broadwater









Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

9.1 Southern Bay: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Marine water quality	Marine water quality declined from excellent to very good condition. Turbidity, total nitrogen, and algae (phytoplankton) remained in excellent condition, while total phosphorus significantly declined from excellent to fair condition.
Wetland extent	The extent of intertidal habitat remains excellent, with 94% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining compared to pre-clearing extent.
Seagrass extent	Seagrass extent remains fair in Southern Bay.
Seagrass depth range	The depth range where seagrass is found remains in very poor condition since the 2022 floods.
Mud content	Mud content remains in fair condition, though has not been assessed in 2025. The 2022 floods increased the area of muddy sediments across Moreton Bay, smothering previously sandy habitats.

9.2 Southern Bay: Social and economic benefits: N/A

The Socio-Economic Benefit Rating **is not measured in bay areas**.

Broadwater

Northern

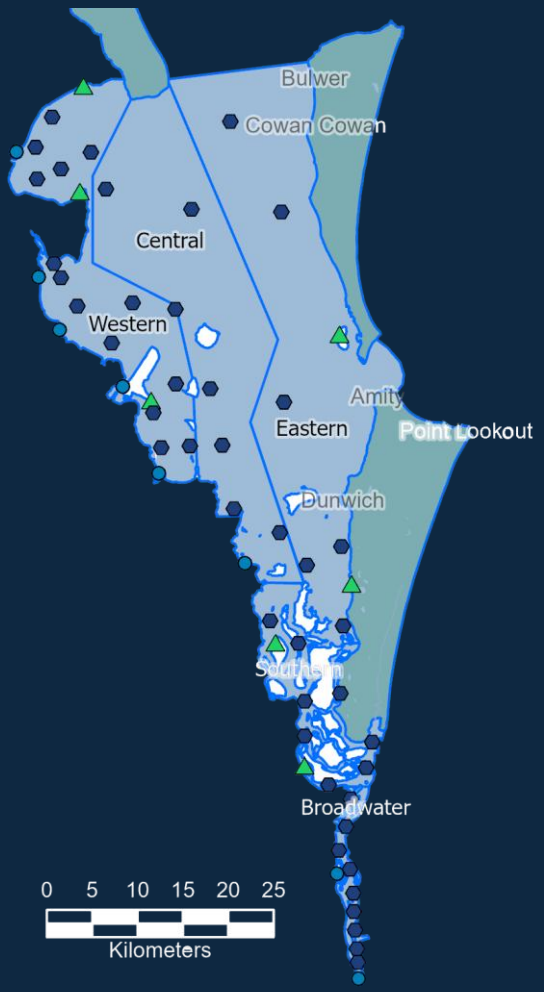
Western

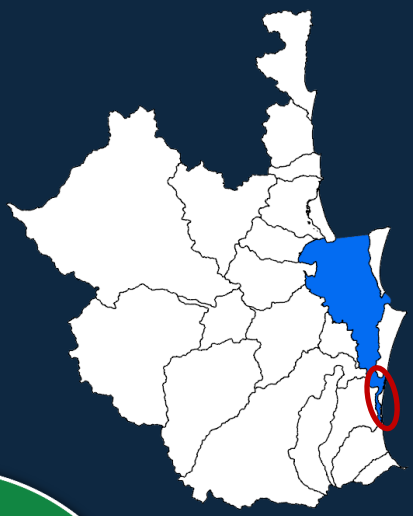
Central

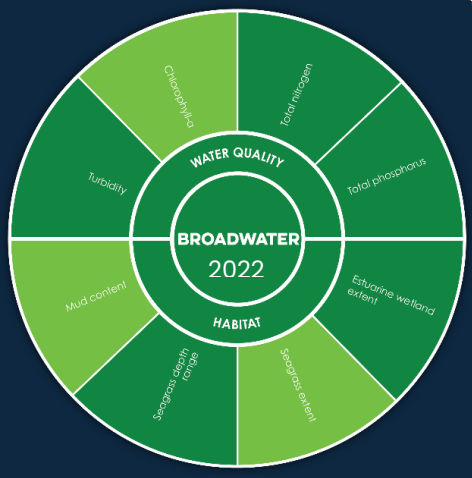
Southern

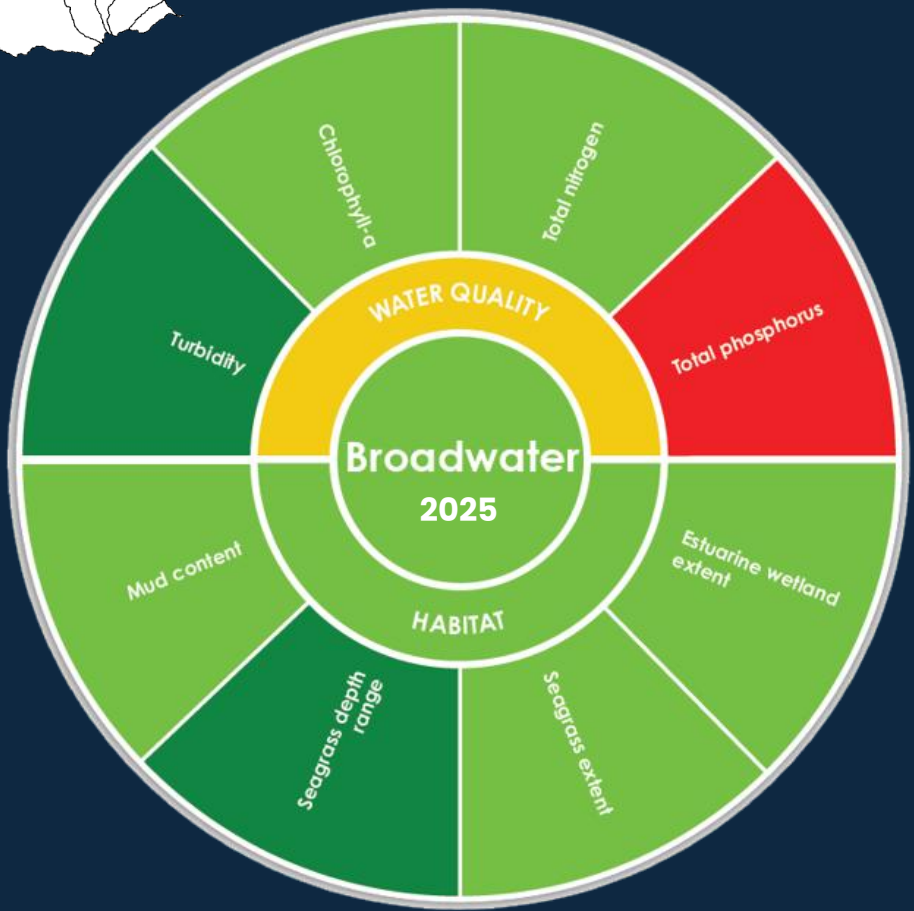
Bay

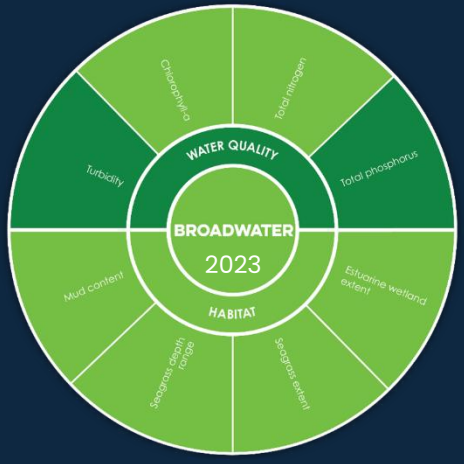
- Western Bay
- Central Bay
- Eastern Bay
- Southern Bay
- Broadwater











Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

10.1 Broadwater: Environmental condition: very good

Very good

Marine water quality	Marine water quality significantly declined from excellent to fair condition. Algae (phytoplankton) and total nitrogen remained in very good condition, while turbidity remained in excellent condition. Total phosphorus significantly declined from excellent to very poor condition.
Wetland extent	The extent of intertidal wetland habitat is very good, with 76% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the bay zone.
Seagrass extent	Seagrass extent remains very good within the Broadwater.
Seagrass depth range	The depth range of seagrass at Broadwater sites improved this year from very good to excellent condition.
Mud content	Mud content remains in very good condition, though has not been assessed in 2025. Mud content increased from very low to low in 2022 because of the delivery of fine sediments in floodwaters, which smothered sandy habitats within the Broadwater.

10.2 Broadwater: Social and economic benefits: N/A

The Socio-Economic Benefit Rating **is not measured in bay areas**.

Noosa catchment

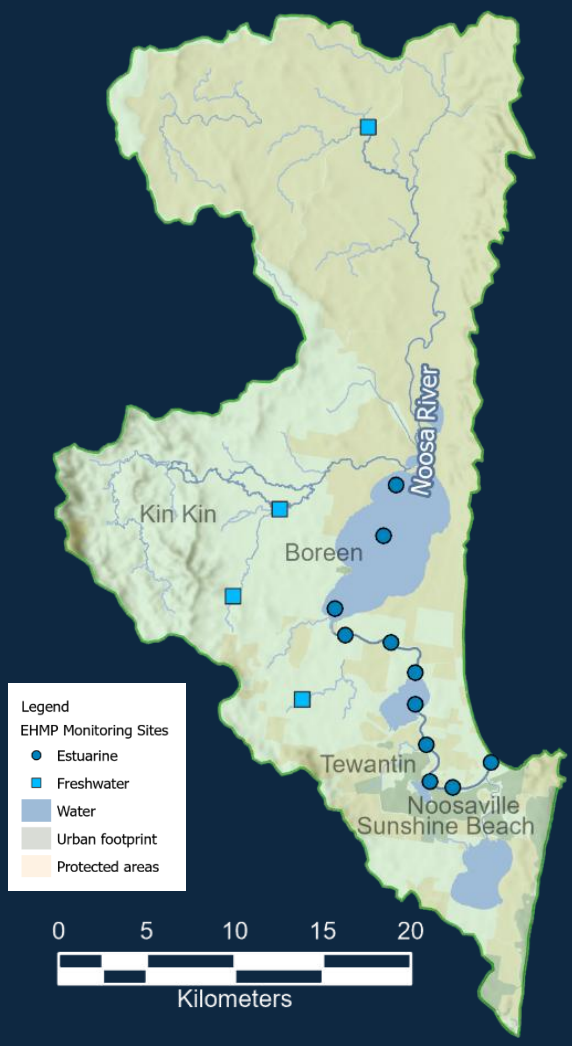
Northern
- Noosa
- Maroochy
- Mooloola
- Pumicestone

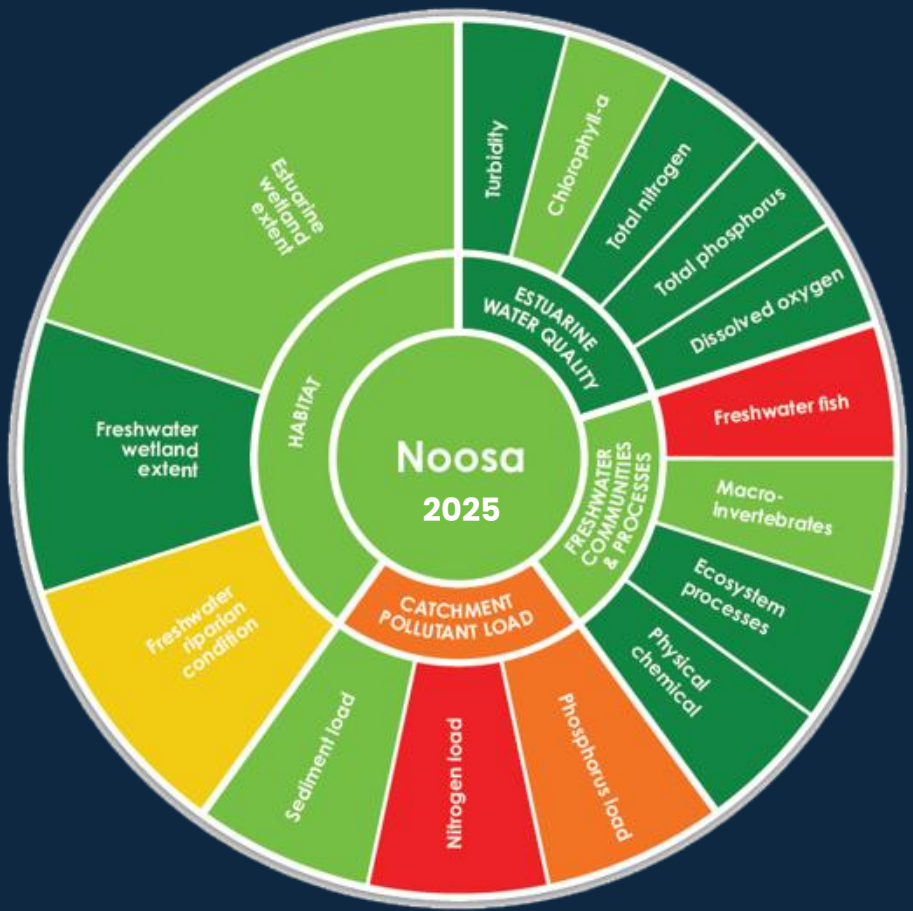
Western

Central

Southern

Bay





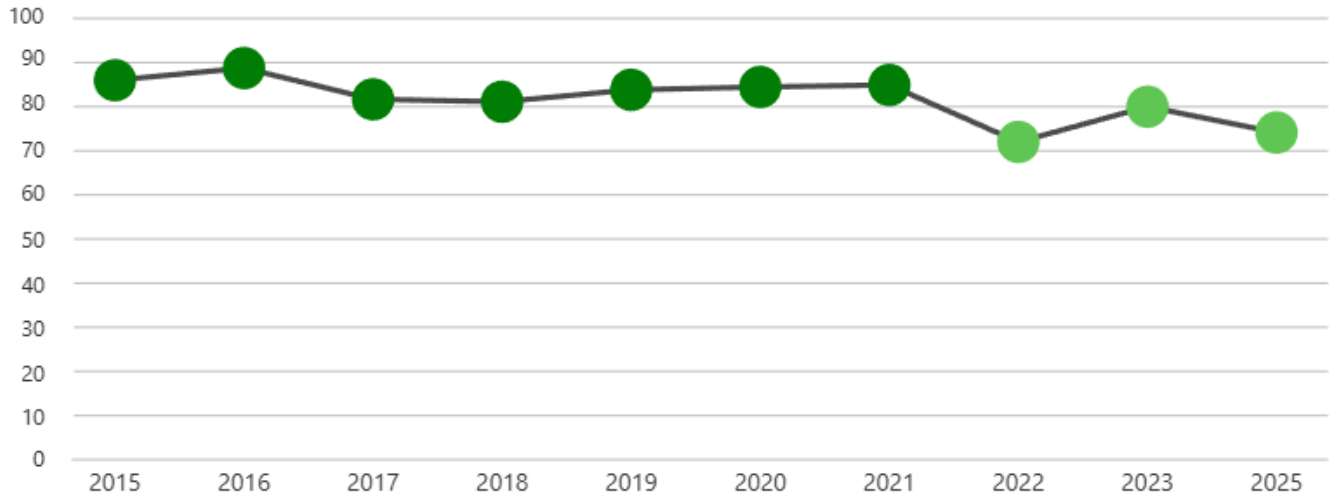
Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

11.1 Noosa catchment: Environmental condition: very good

Very good

Freshwater stream health	Freshwater health improved significantly from fair to very good. Ecosystem processes remained in excellent condition. Water quality improved from very good to excellent condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from very poor to very good condition. Freshwater fish declined significantly from poor to very poor condition.
Catchment pollutant loads	Pollutant loads increased significantly from very low to high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 9.1 kg/ha in 2023 to 364.6 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (14.1 kg/ha) and high loads of phosphorus (1.7 kg/ha) to waterways.
Estuarine water quality	Estuarine water quality remained in excellent condition. Algae (phytoplankton)declined from excellent to very good condition. Turbidity, nutrients (total nitrogen and phosphorus), and dissolved oxygen remained in excellent condition. There is a trend of increased algae (Chlorophyll *a*) in the estuary over the last 15 years.
Wetland extent	Wetland extent remains excellent (91% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is very good, with 89% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.
Riparian extent	Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very good with more than 80% woody cover in 67% of Noosa sub-catchments. The bio condition of riparian areas is also very good. Riparian woody vegetation re-growth is poor, while remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues, though is minimal in extent. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 105 hectares.
Estuarine fish	The estuarine fish community of the Noosa estuary is in very good condition. Factors influencing condition include intact and heterogeneous habitats, a natural mouth, and extensive seagrass meadows.

Over time



11.2 Noosa catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Noosa catchment respondents reported extremely high usability (86%) and extremely high accessibility (89%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (88%) which is a slight improvement from (81%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Noosa catchment reported very high (80%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Noosa catchment reported extremely high (90%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Noosa catchment reported extremely high (82%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

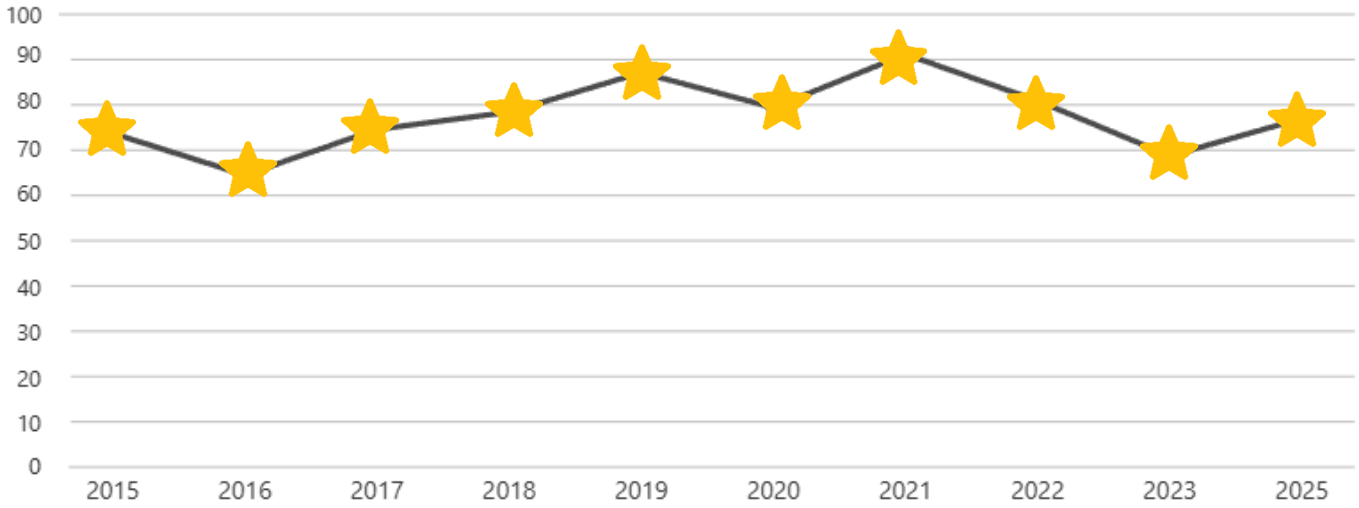
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $1,605/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (34% of value), boating or sailing (25% of value) and recreational fishing (12% of value).

Drinking water

The Noosa catchment does not receive a drinking water score as the catchment does not have a drinking water dam within its boundary

Over time



11.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of Noosa River.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Protect and enhance coastal and marine habitats (seagrass, coral reefs, intertidal flats, beaches) by managing pollution, development, use, and direct impacts.
- Implement comprehensive management of coastal waterways that recognises the strong connections between catchment condition and processes and the condition of the estuarine lake systems.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Reduce sediment loads and nutrients entering waterways by implementing activities in priority catchments (e.g. Ringtail Creek and creeks flowing into Lake Cootharaba, including Kin Kin Creek) and continue to support catchment management as outlined in the "Keeping it in Kin Kin" implementation plan.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Maroochy catchment

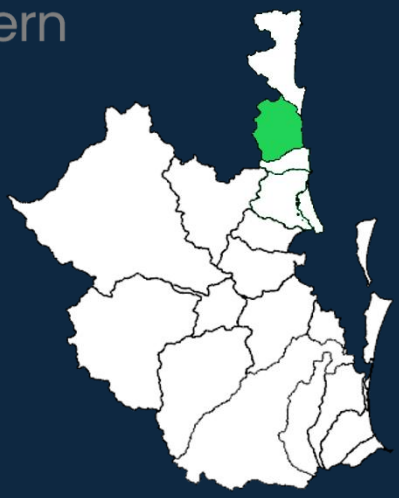
Northern
- Noosa
- Maroochy
- Mooloola
- Pumicestone

Western

Central

Southern

Bay



Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

12.1 Maroochy catchment: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from poor to excellent. Ecosystem processes remained in excellent condition. Water quality improved from fair to excellent condition and macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from very poor to fair condition. Freshwater fish declined significantly from fair to poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 57.1 kg/ha in 2023 to 1182 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (18.1 kg/ha) and phosphorus (3.7 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality remained in excellent condition. Total nitrogen concentrations reduced in the estuary mouth, shifting from very good to excellent condition. Turbidity, algae (phytoplankton), and total phosphorus remained in excellent condition, while dissolved oxygen also remained in very good condition. Water quality has remained stable over the last 10-15 years.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains poor (31% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary (mangroves and saltmarshes) is very good (80% remaining).

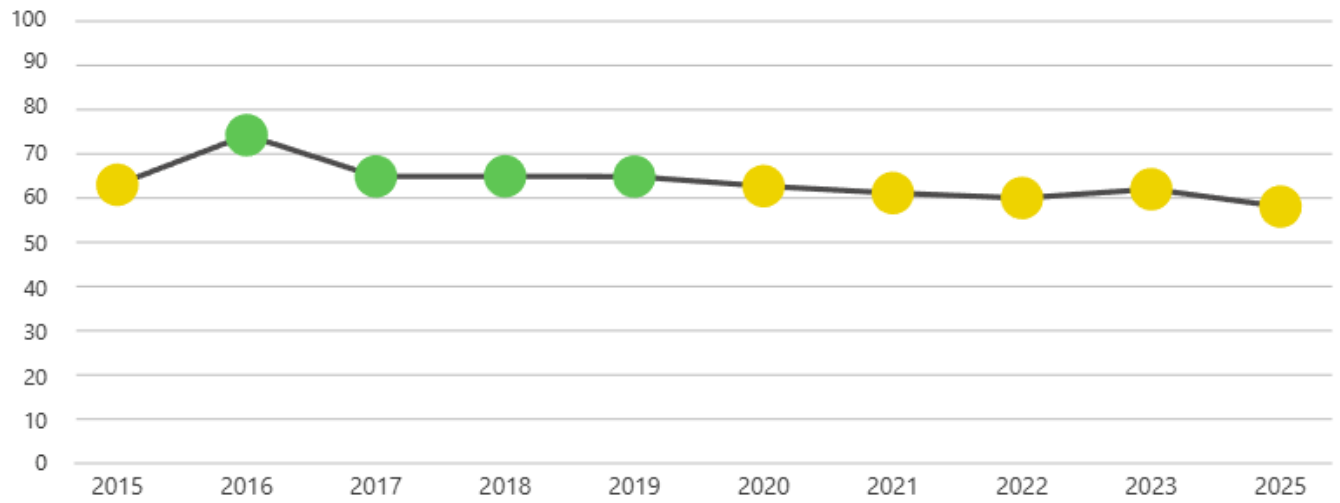
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very poor with >80% woody cover in only 26% of Maroochy sub-catchments. The bio condition of riparian areas is poor. Riparian woody vegetation re-growth is fair while remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues, though is minimal in extent. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 127 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Maroochy estuary is in very good condition. Factors influencing condition include intact and heterogeneous habitats, a natural mouth and the presence of seagrass meadows.

Over time



12.2 Maroochy catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Maroochy catchment reported extremely high usability (86%) and extremely high accessibility (89%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (88%) which is a slight improvement from (80%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Maroochy catchment reported very high (80%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Maroochy catchment reported extremely high (90%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Maroochy catchment reported extremely high (82%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

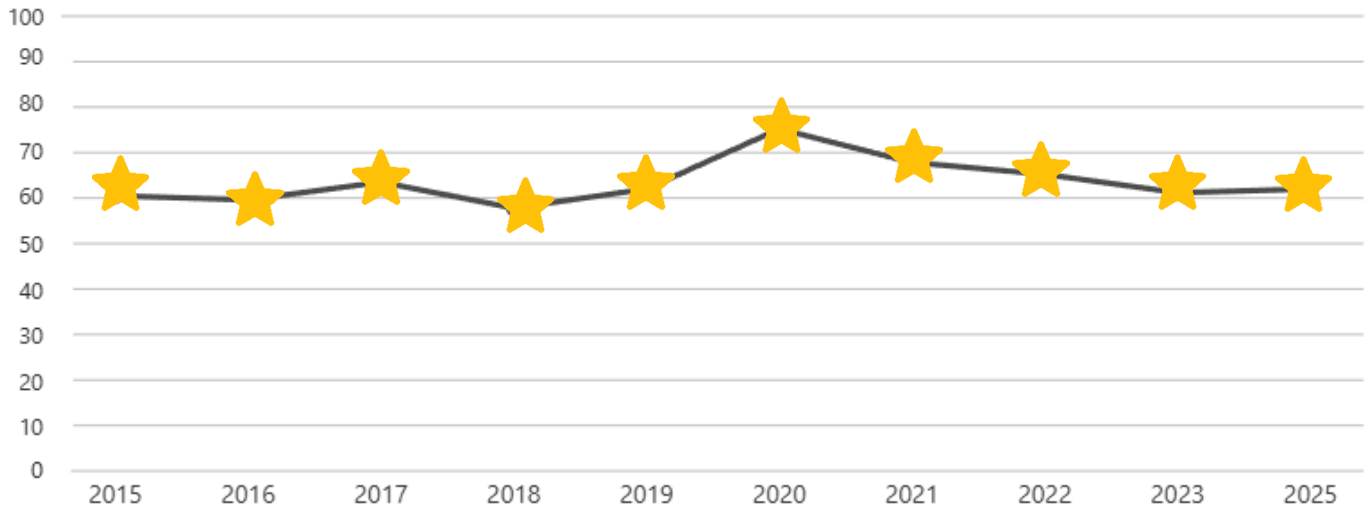
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $1,605/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (34% of value), boating or sailing (25% of value) and recreational fishing (12% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 4,255ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



12.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Maroochy catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Protect and enhance coastal and marine habitats (seagrass, coral reefs, intertidal flats, beaches) by managing pollution, development, use, and direct impacts.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.

Mooloolah catchment

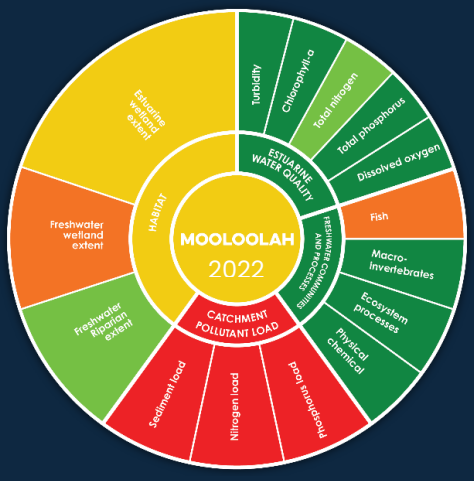
Northern
- Noosa
- Maroochy
- Mooloola
- Pumicestone

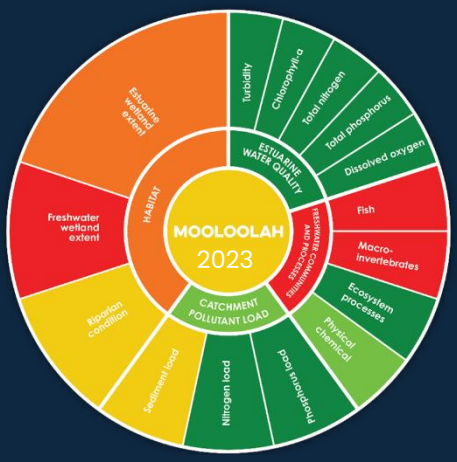
Western

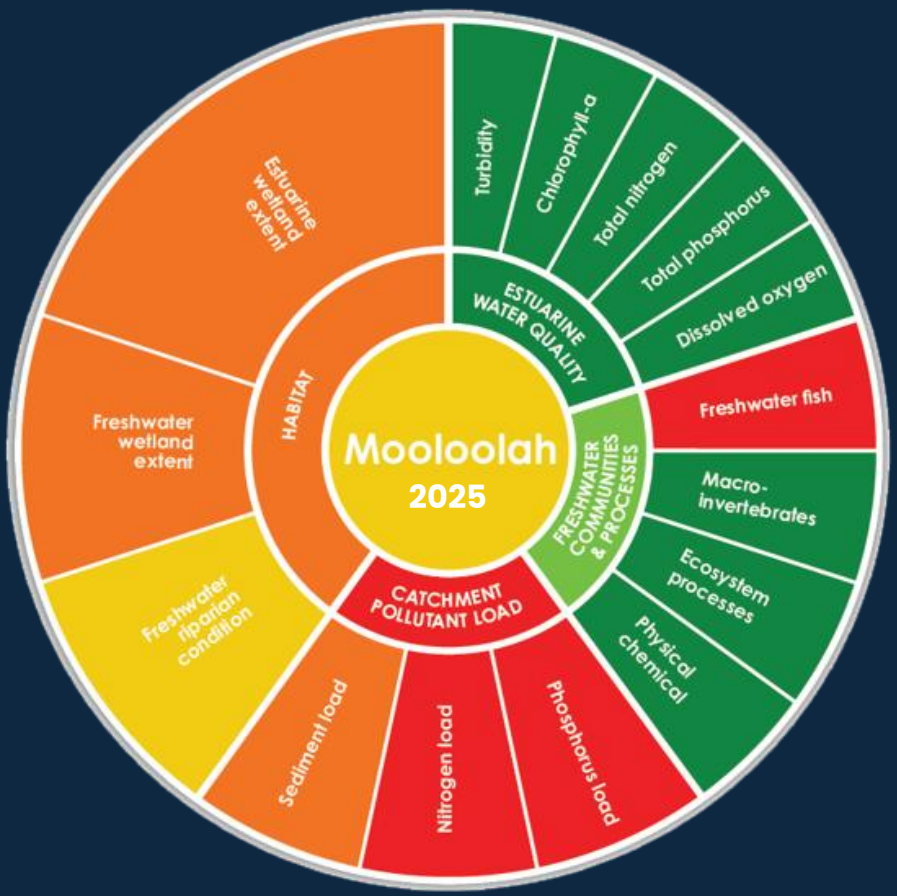
Central

Southern

Bay







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

13.1 Mooloolah catchment: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from very poor to very good. Ecosystem processes remained in excellent condition. Water quality improved from very good to excellent and macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from very poor to excellent. Freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 77.8 kg/ha in 2023 to 879.4 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (14.7 kg/ha) and phosphorus (2.7 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality remained in excellent condition. Despite an increase in algae (phytoplankton) from the Parrearra Canal junction through to the Mooloolah River mouth, all estuarine water quality indicators remained in excellent condition. Water quality has remained stable over the last 15 years.

Wetland extent

Freshwater wetland extent is poor (30% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat is poor, with 53% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

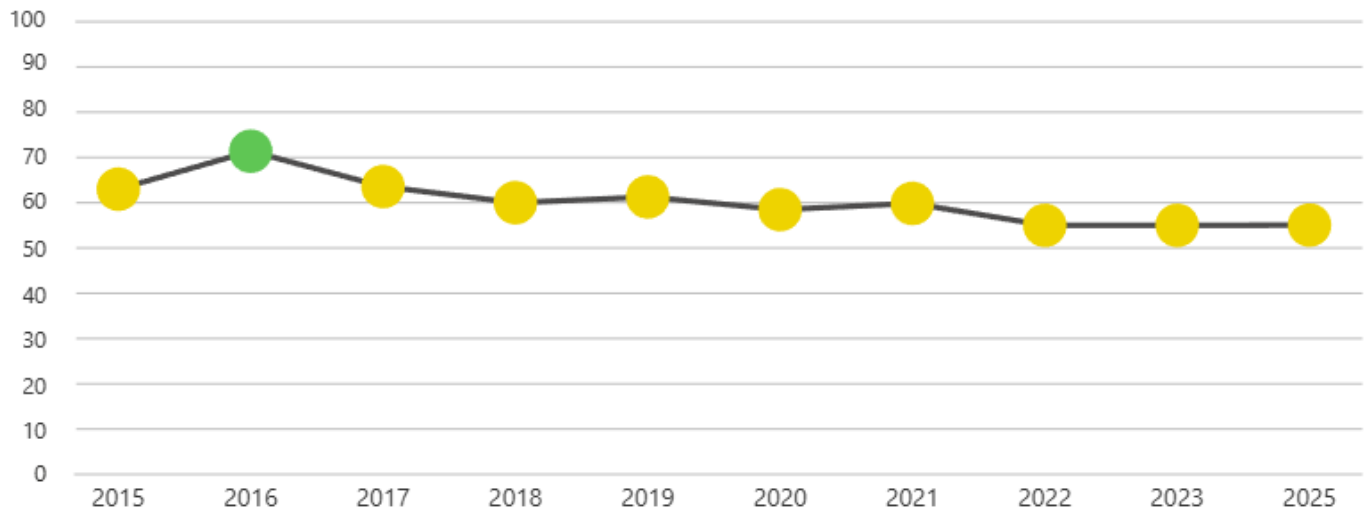
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is fair with >80% woody cover in 64% of sub-catchments. The riparian bio condition score is excellent. Riparian woody vegetation re-growth is poor, while remnant riparian vegetation clearing is minimal. Between 2018-2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 45 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Maroochy estuary is in very good condition. Factors influencing condition include high habitat diversity.

Over time



13.2 Mooloolah catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Mooloolah catchment reported extremely high usability (94%) and extremely high accessibility (95%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (94%), which is a slight improvement from (85%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Mooloolah catchment reported extremely high (94%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Mooloolah catchment reported extremely high (91%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Mooloolah catchment reported extremely high (96%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

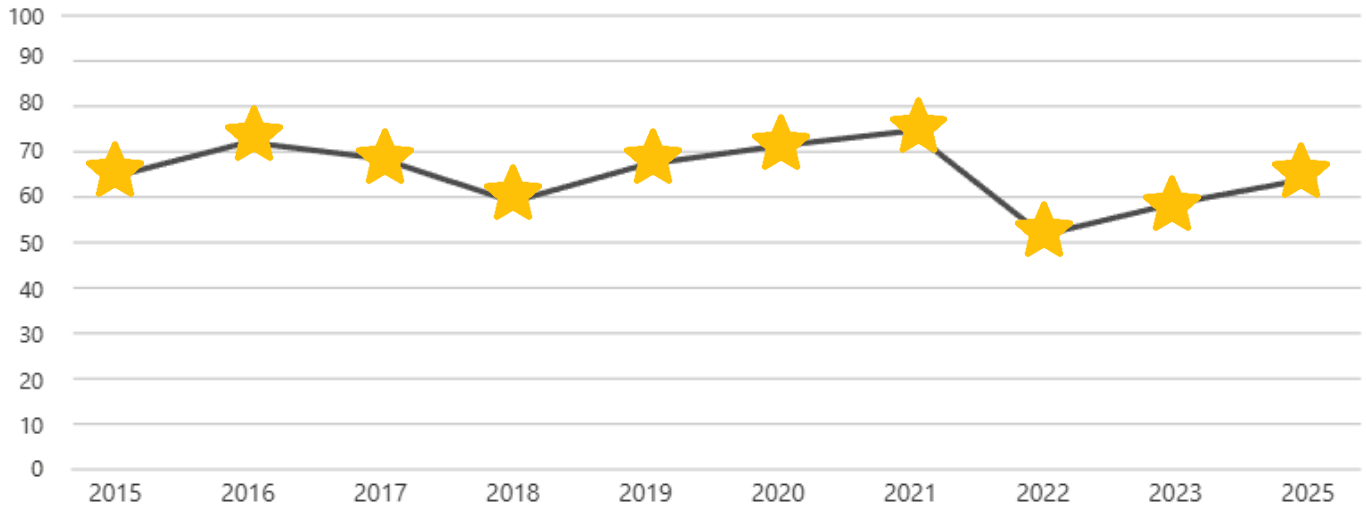
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $2,481/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (47% of value), swimming (12% of value) and recreational fishing (12% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 2,971ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



13.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Mooloolah catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.

Pumicestone catchment

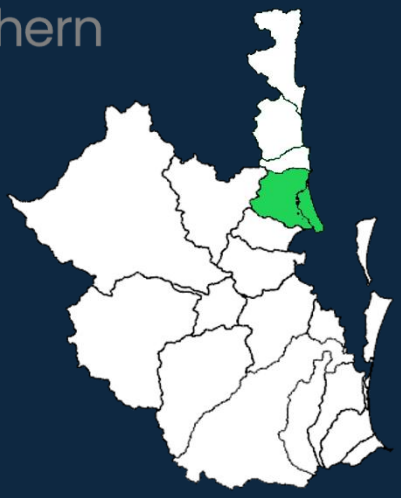
Northern
- Noosa
- Maroochy
- Mooloola
- Pumicestone

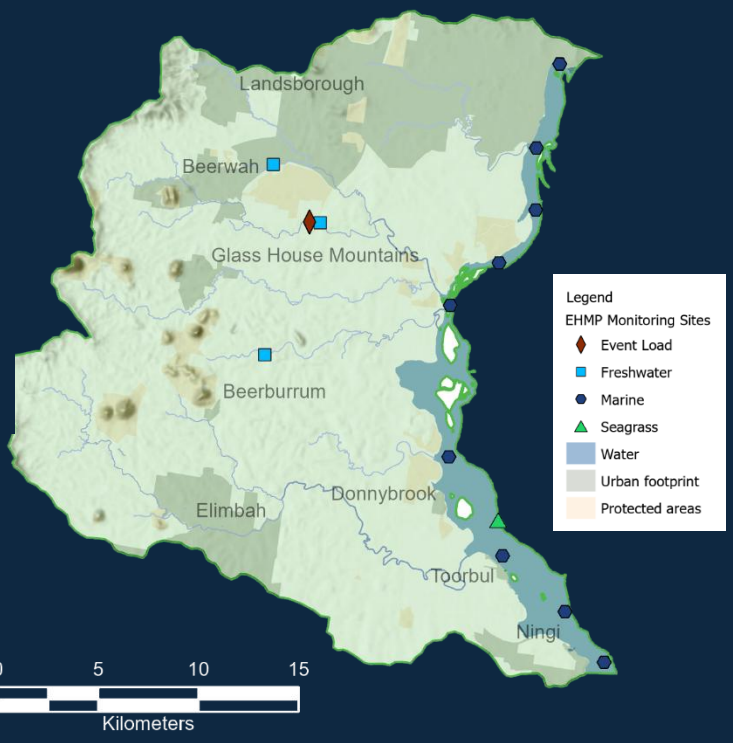
Western

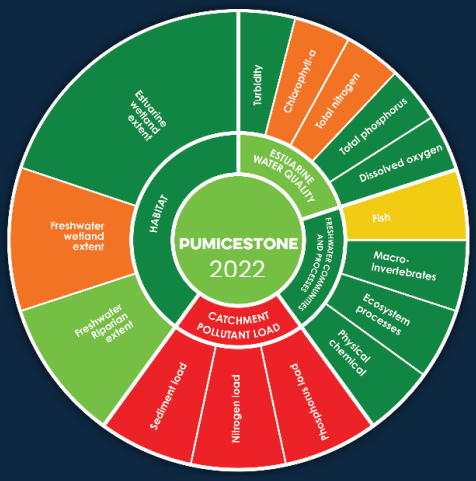
Central

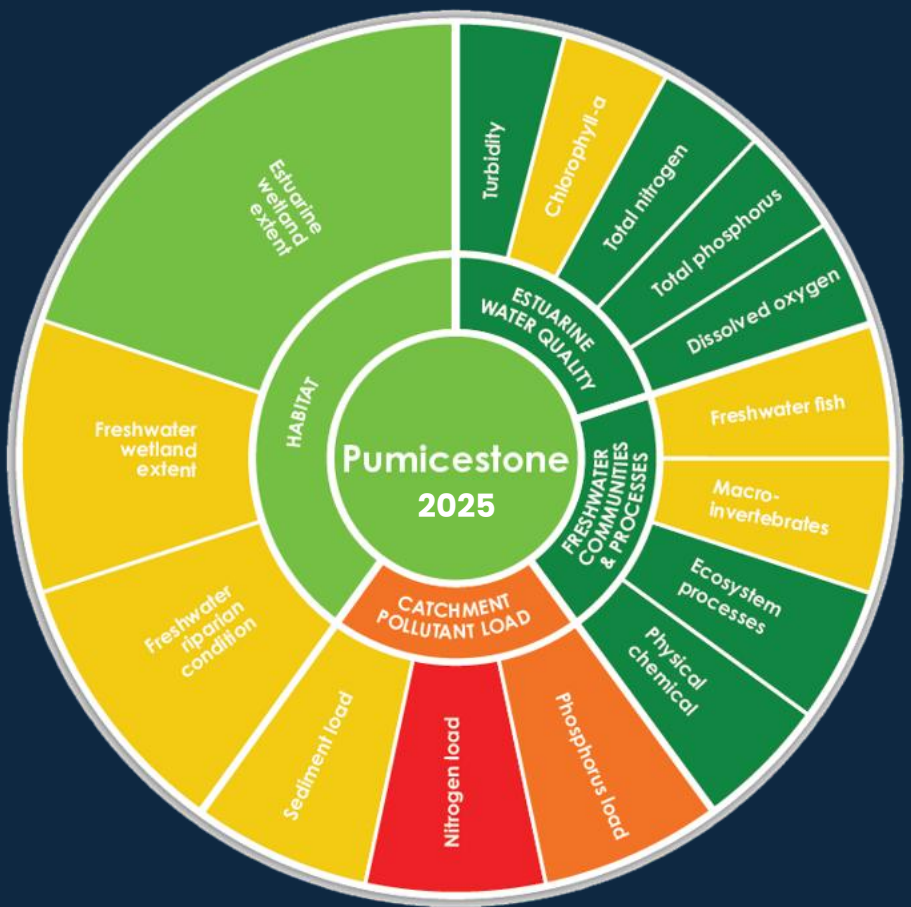
Southern

Bay









Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

14.1 Pumicestone catchment: Environmental condition: very good

Very good

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health remained in excellent condition. Ecosystem processes and water quality remained in excellent condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved significantly from very poor to fair, while freshwater fish declined significantly from very good to fair condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from moderate to high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 93.6 kg/ha in 2023 to 554 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (13.4 kg/ha) and high loads of phosphorus (2 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality remained in excellent condition. Algae (phytoplankton) declined from excellent to fair condition, while turbidity, nutrients (total nitrogen and phosphorus), and dissolved oxygen remained in excellent condition. There is a trend of increased algae (Chlorophyll *a*) in the estuary over the last 15 years.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent is fair (49% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is very good, with 90% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

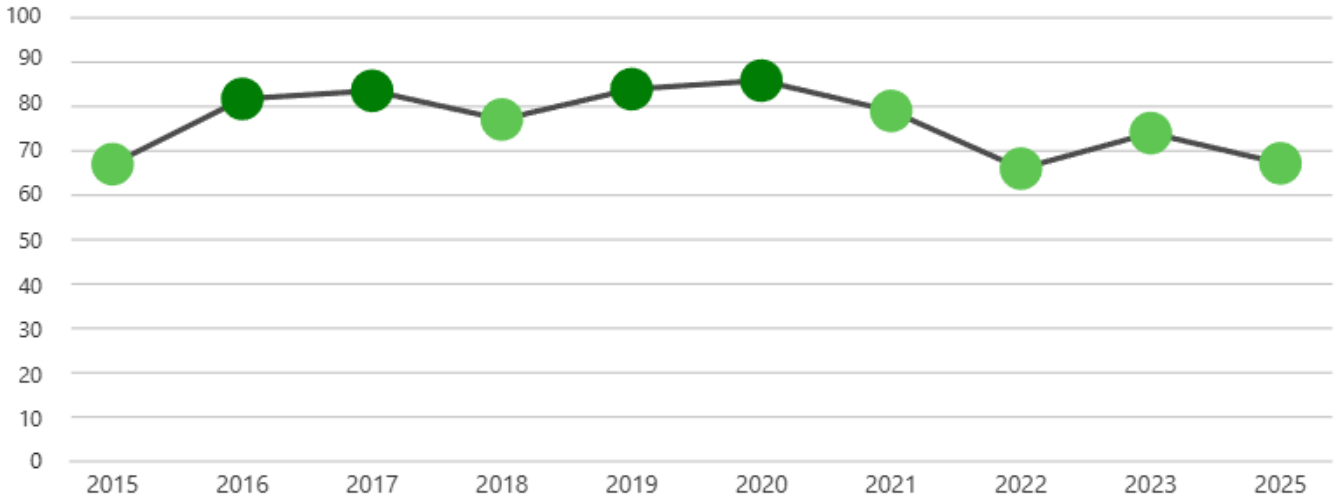
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is fair with more than 80% woody cover in 56% of sub-catchments. The riparian bio condition score is very good. Remnant riparian vegetation clearing is continuing in the Pumicestone catchment. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 401 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Pumicestone Passage is in poor condition. Factors influencing condition include low diversity of habitats, poor seascape connectivity.

Over time



14.2 Pumicestone catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Pumicestone catchment reported extremely high usability (89%) and extremely high accessibility (86%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (88%) which is an improvement from (79%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Pumicestone catchment reported very high (83%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Pumicestone catchment reported extremely high (94%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Pumicestone catchment reported extremely high (86%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

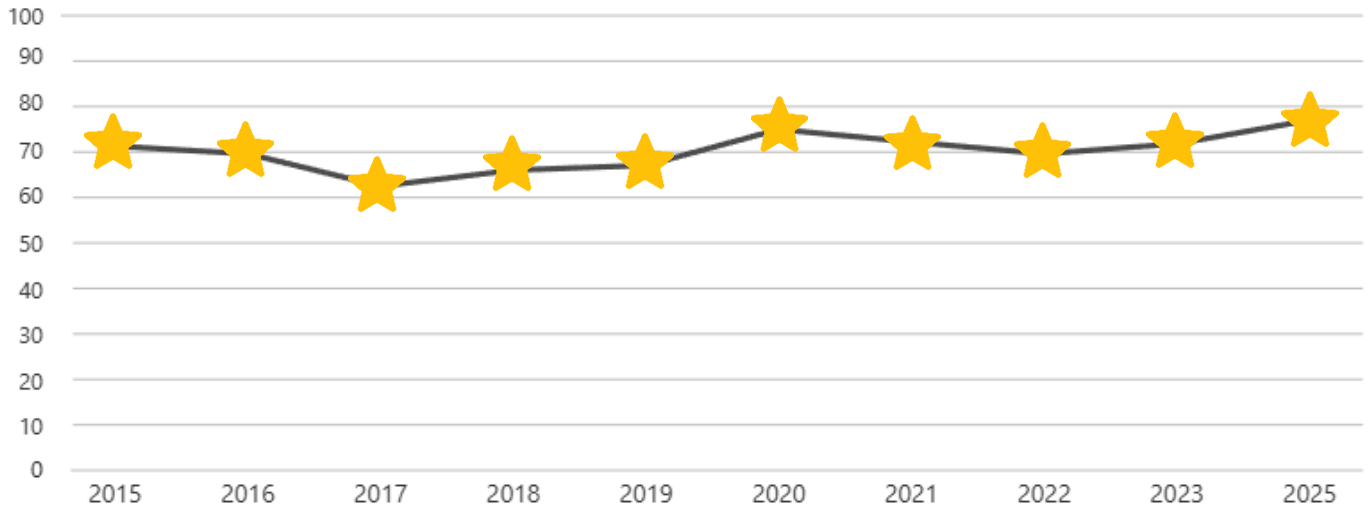
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $1,332/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (30% of value), boating or sailing (12% of value) and recreational fishing (17% of value).

Drinking water

The Pumicestone catchment does not receive a drinking water score as the catchment does not have a drinking water dam within its boundary.

Over time



14.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Pumicestone catchment and Pumicestone Passage.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Protect and enhance coastal and marine habitats (seagrass, coral reefs, intertidal flats, beaches) by managing pollution, development, use, and direct impacts.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Reduce excess nutrient run-off from agricultural and agroforestry land by adopting best practice fertiliser use and management.
- Implement best management practices for unsealed roads and 4WD in the Pumicestone catchment.
- Manage pesticides and herbicide use to prevent un-intended ecological impacts in receiving waters
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Develop and implement management strategies to minimise the impact of increasing visitation and recreational use of the Passage.

Caboolture catchment

Northern

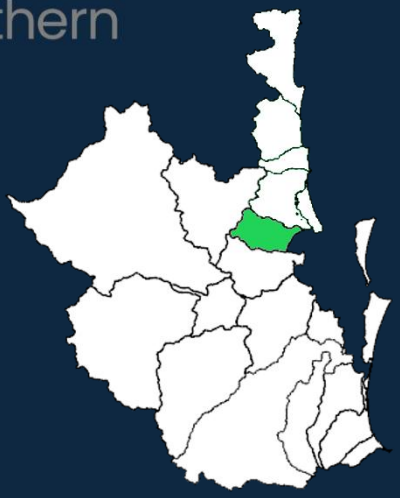
Western

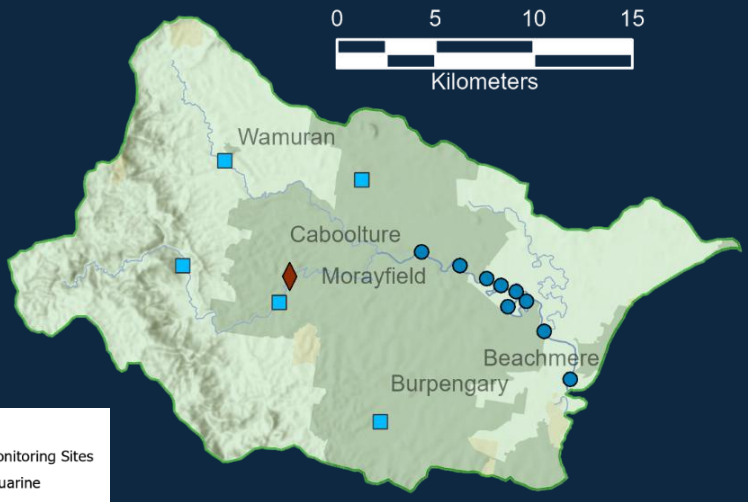
Central

- Caboolture
- Pine
- Lower Brisbane
- Redland

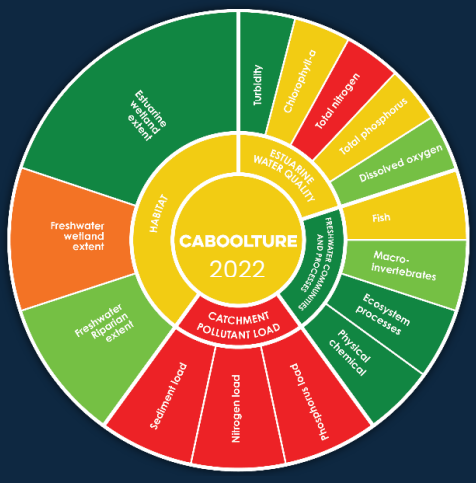
Southern

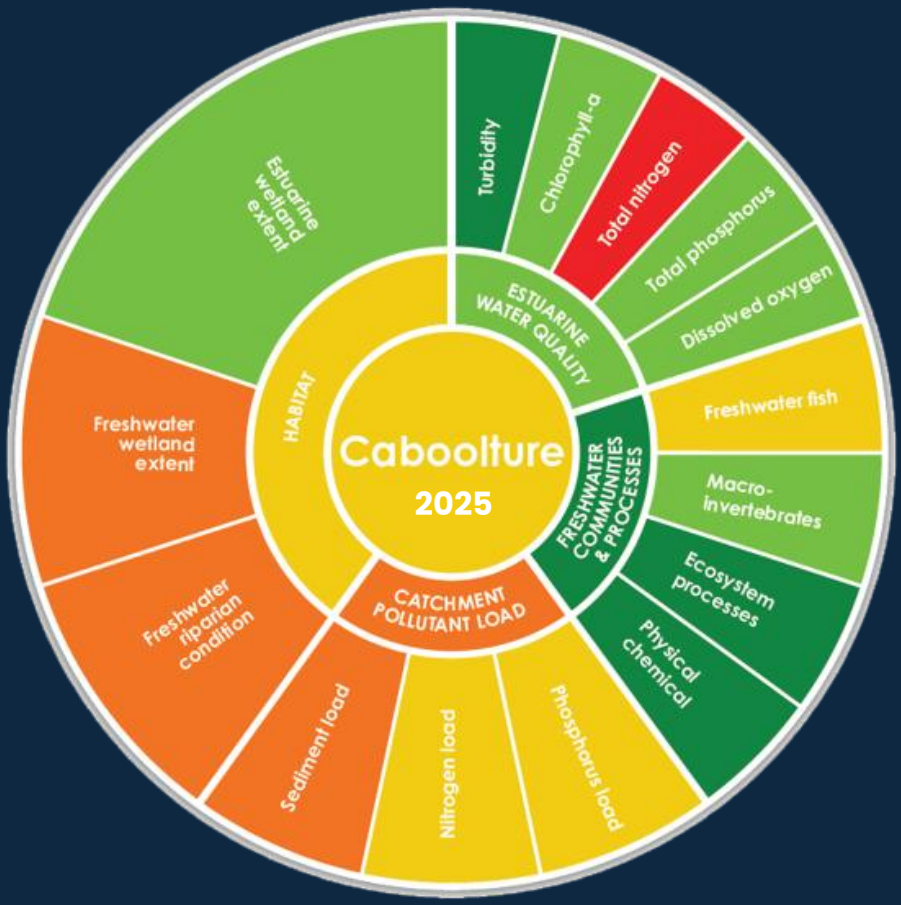
Bay





Legend
EHMP Monitoring Sites
- Estuarine
- Event Load
- Freshwater
- Water
- Urban footprint
- Protected areas





Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

15.1 Caboolture catchment: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from fair to excellent. Ecosystem processes and water quality remained in excellent condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved significantly from very poor to very good, while freshwater fish improved from poor to fair condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 395.7 kg/ha in 2023 to 1035.6 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered moderate loads of nitrogen (7.2 kg/ha) and phosphorus (1.4 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality slightly declined but remained in very good condition. Turbidity remained in excellent condition and algae (phytoplankton) remained in very good condition. Total nitrogen remained in very poor condition, while total phosphorus and dissolved oxygen declined from excellent to very good condition. There is a trend of increasing total nitrogen in the estuary over the last 15 years.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains poor (32% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is very good, with 92% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

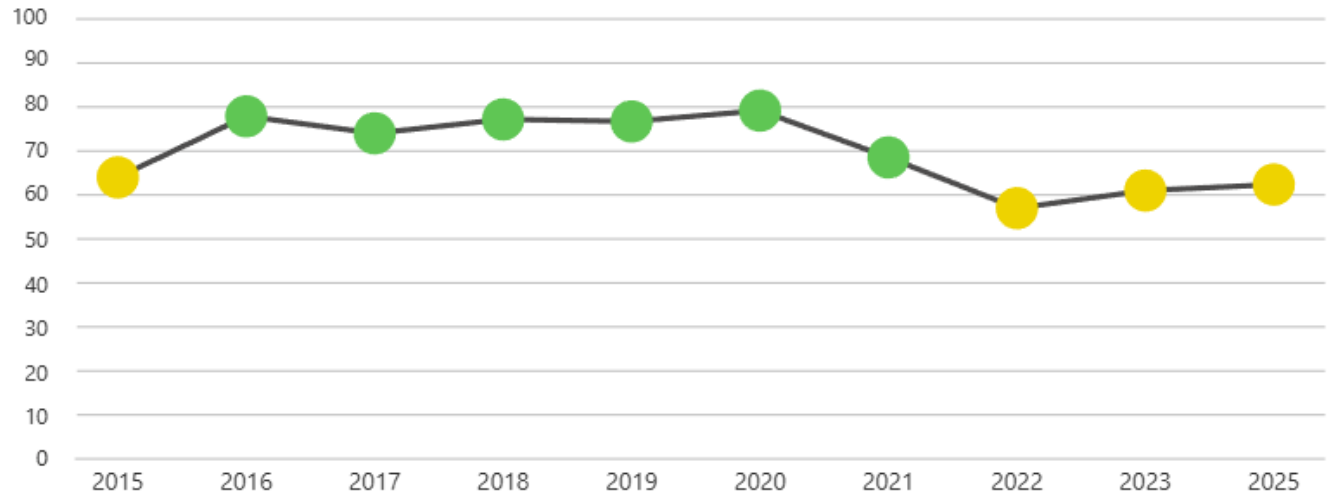
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is poor with >80% woody cover in 31% of sub-catchments. The riparian bio condition score is fair, and remnant riparian vegetation clearing is minimal in the Caboolture catchment. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 190 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Caboolture estuary is in fair condition. Factors influencing condition include a high diversity of habitats and barrier impacts (Caboolture Weir).

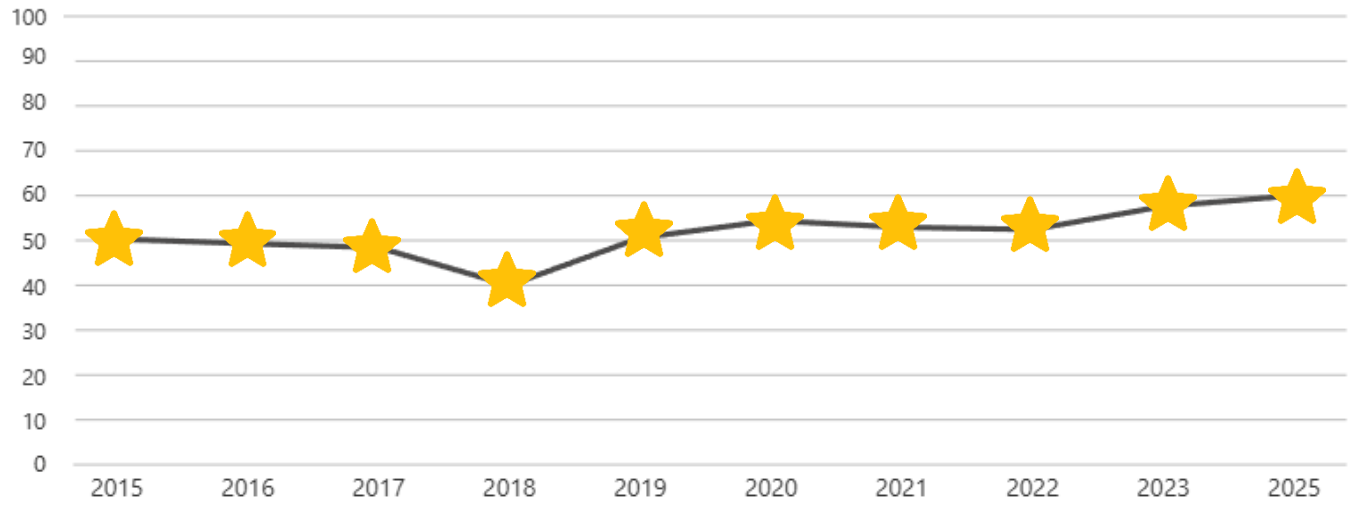
Over time



15.2 Caboolture catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability	Respondents in the Caboolture catchment reported very high usability (70%) and very high accessibility (68%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (69%) which is the same as it was in 2023.
Satisfaction with experience	Respondents in the Caboolture catchment reported very high (62%) satisfaction with their local waterways.
Connection with waterways	Respondents in the Caboolture catchment reported extremely high (90%) connection with their local waterways.
Personal benefits	Respondents in the Caboolture catchment reported extremely high (81%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.
Recreational benefits	The waterway recreational value per person was $845/year. The activities that made up this value include recreational fishing (37% of value), picnics and BBQ's (31% of value) and boating and sailing (12% of value).
Drinking water	The Caboolture catchment does not receive a drinking water score as the catchment does not have a drinking water dam within its boundary.

Over time



15.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Caboolture catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.

Pine catchment

Northern

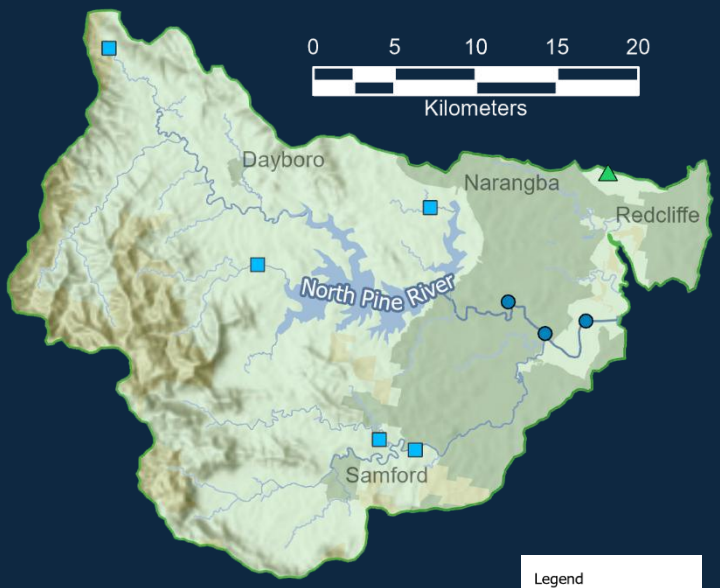
Western

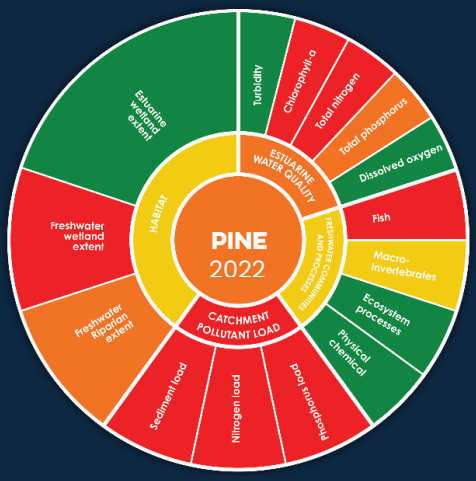
Central

- Caboolture
- Pine
- Lower Brisbane
- Redland

Southern

Bay





Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

16.1 Pine catchment: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from fair to very good. Ecosystem processes declined from excellent to very good. Water quality improved from very good to excellent condition and macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved significantly from poor to excellent condition. Freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from very low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 12.4 kg/ha in 2023 to 3988.7 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (16.7 kg/ha) and phosphorus (6.9 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality declined from excellent to very good condition. Turbidity, algae (phytoplankton), and dissolved oxygen remained in excellent condition. Total nitrogen declined from excellent to fair condition and total phosphorus from excellent to poor condition. There is a trend of increasing total nitrogen in the estuary over the last 15 years.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent is poor (39% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is very good, with 80% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

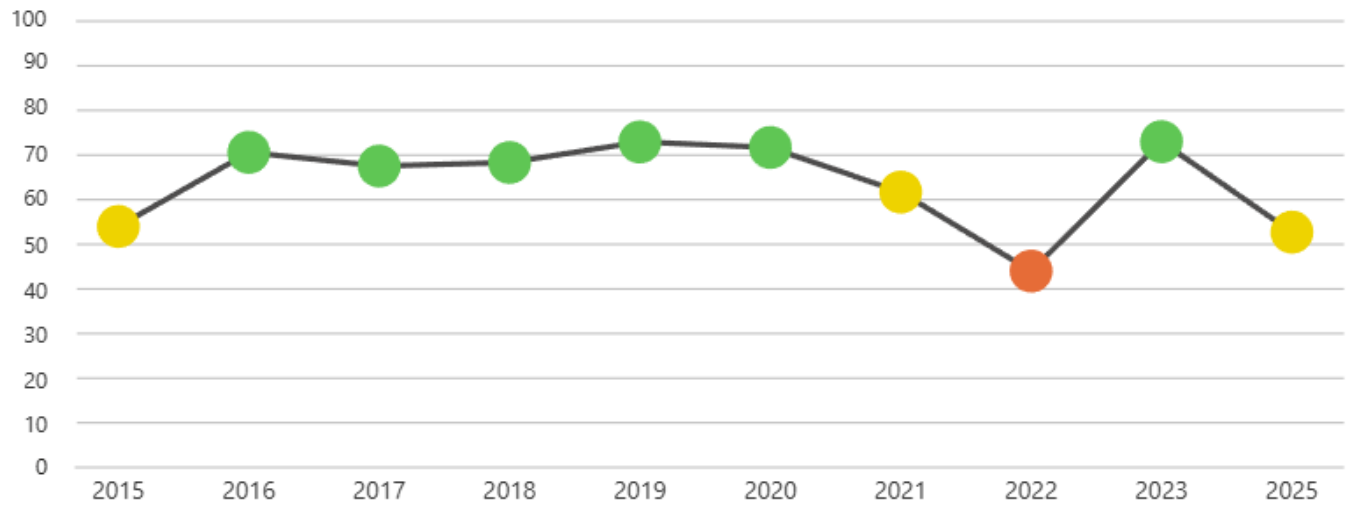
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is poor with >80% woody cover in 46% of sub-catchments. The riparian bio condition score is fair. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing is continuing, though minimal in the Pine catchment. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 92 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Pine estuary is in poor condition. Factors influencing condition include high levels of disturbance and impacts on intertidal habitats.

Over time



16.2 Pine catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Pine catchment reported extremely high usability (85%) and extremely high accessibility (87%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (83%) which is an improvement from (77%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Pine catchment reported very high (75%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Pine catchment reported extremely high (88%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Pine catchment reported extremely high (86%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

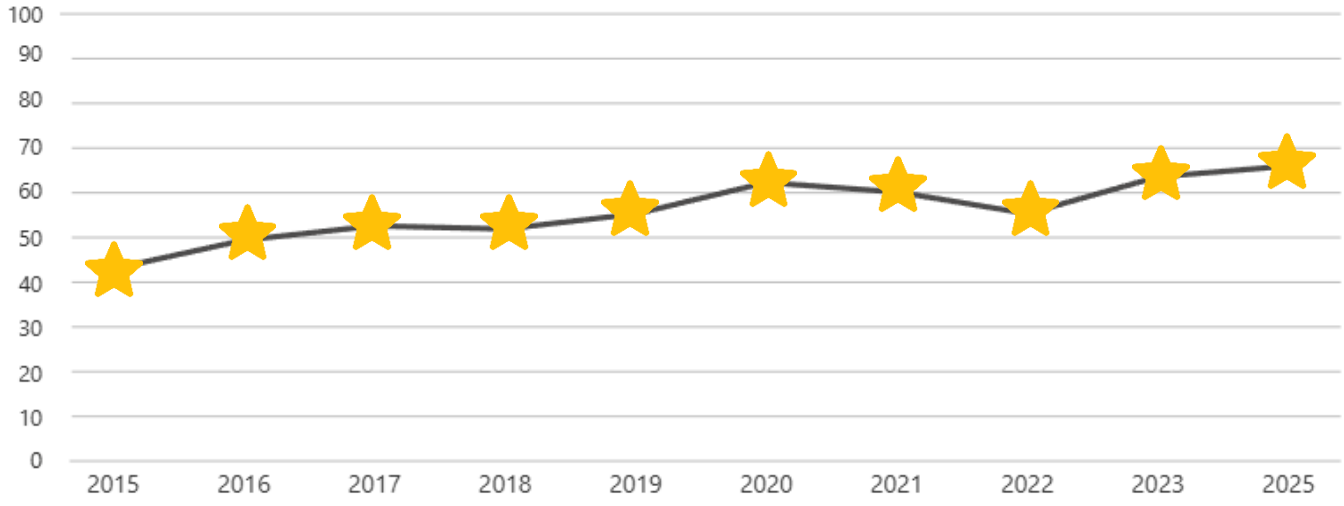
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $1,615/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (33% of value), recreational fishing (21% of value) and boating and sailing (20% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 37,050ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. High levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



16.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Pine catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Lower Brisbane catchment

Northern

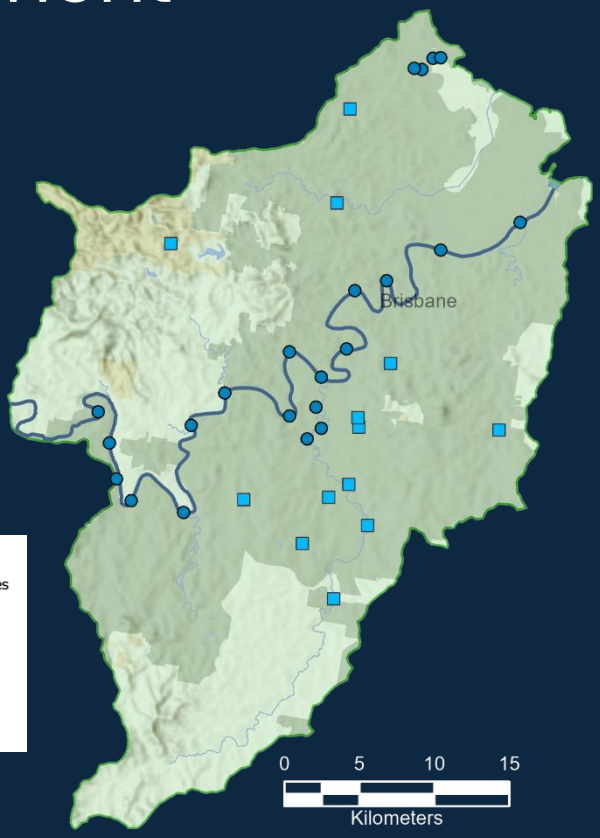
Western

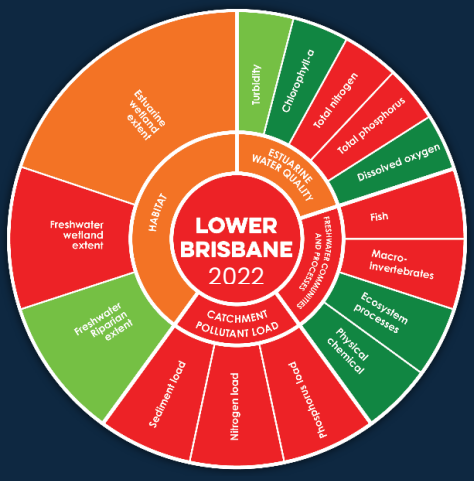
Central

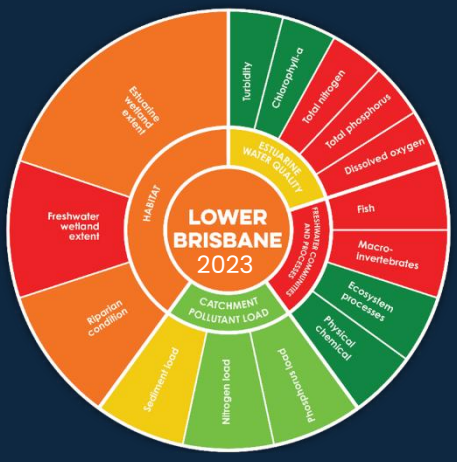
- Caboolture
- Pine
- Lower Brisbane
- Redland

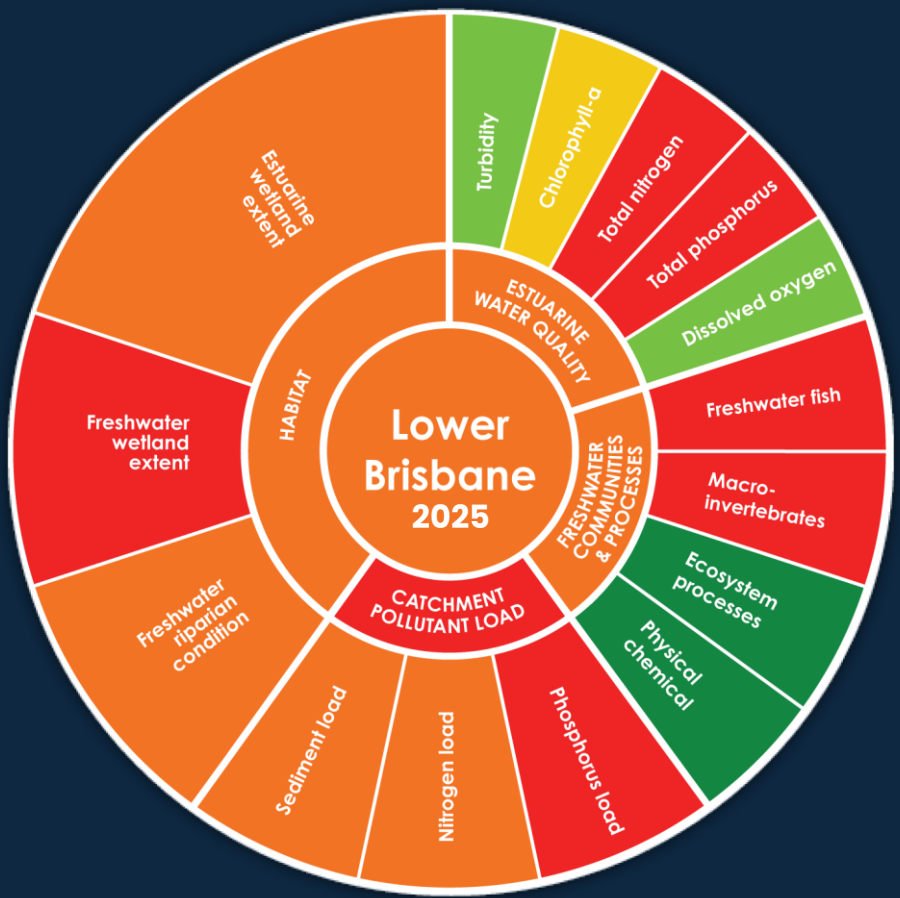
Southern

Bay









Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

17.1 Lower Brisbane catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved from very poor to poor. Ecosystem processes and water quality remained in excellent condition. Freshwater fish and macroinvertebrates (bugs) remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 225 kg/ha in 2023 to 875.1 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered high loads of nitrogen (8.6 kg/ha) and very high loads of phosphorus (2.8 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality declined from fair to poor condition. Dissolved oxygen significantly improved at the Brisbane upper estuary from very poor to very good condition. Nutrients (total nitrogen and phosphorus) increased remaining in very poor condition. Turbidity declined from excellent to very good and algae (phytoplankton) declined from excellent to fair condition. There is a trend of increasing total nitrogen and algae (chlorophyll *a*) in the estuary over the last 15 years.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains very poor (25% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary remains poor, with 40% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

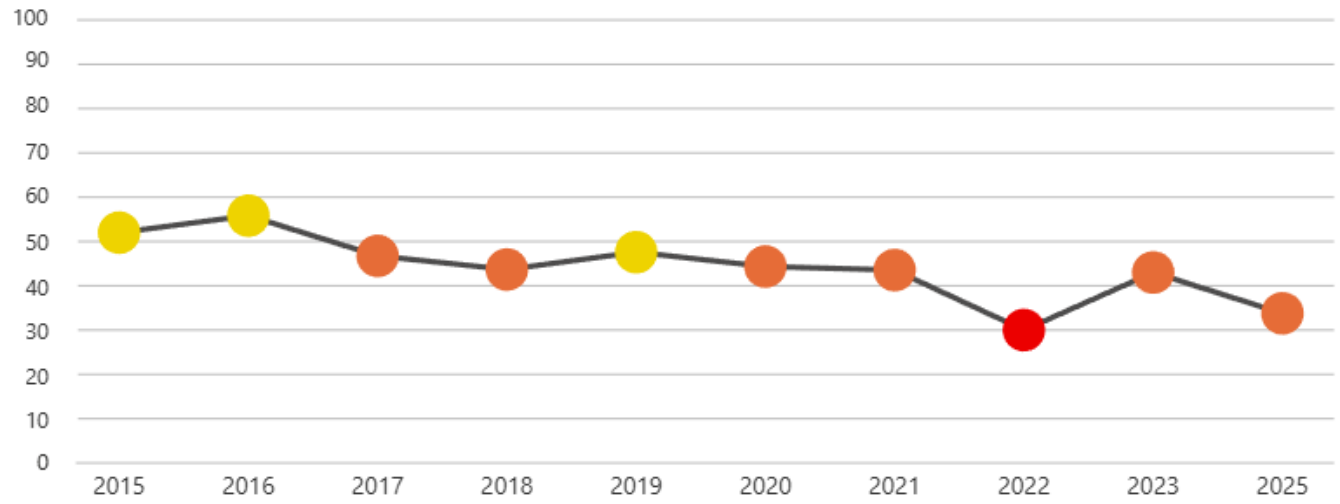
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is poor with >80% woody cover in 45% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is poor. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing is continuing. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 368 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Lower Brisbane estuary is in very poor condition. Factors influencing condition include poor water quality, limited diversity and extent of key habitats and extensive rock bunding.

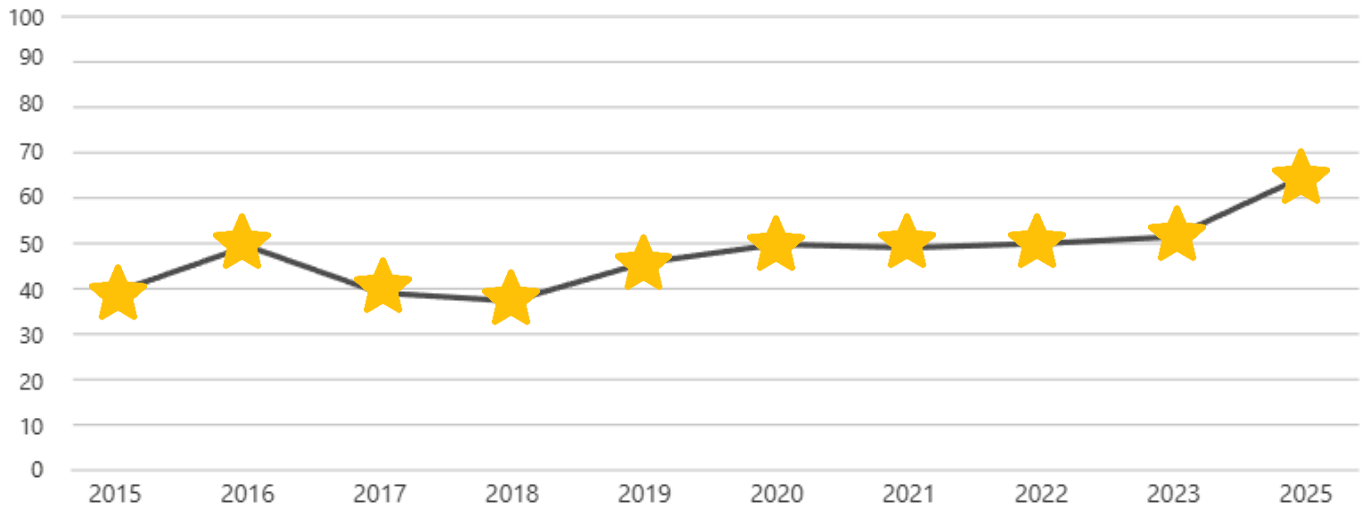
Over time



17.2 Lower Brisbane catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability	Respondents in the Lower Brisbane catchment reported very high usability (73%) and very high accessibility (74%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is very high (77%) which is an improvement from (65%) in 2023.
Satisfaction with experience	Respondents in the Lower Brisbane catchment reported very high (70%) satisfaction with their local waterways.
Connection with waterways	Respondents in the Lower Brisbane catchment reported extremely high (83%) connection with their local waterways.
Personal benefits	Respondents in the Lower Brisbane catchment reported very high (76%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.
Recreational benefits	The waterway recreational value per person was $1,013/year. The activities that made up this value include boating or sailing (26% of value), picnics and BBQs (31% of value and recreational fishing (22% of value).
Drinking water	The Lower Brisbane catchment does not receive a drinking water score as the catchment does not have a drinking water dam within its boundary.

Over time



17.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Lower Brisbane catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Redland catchments

Northern

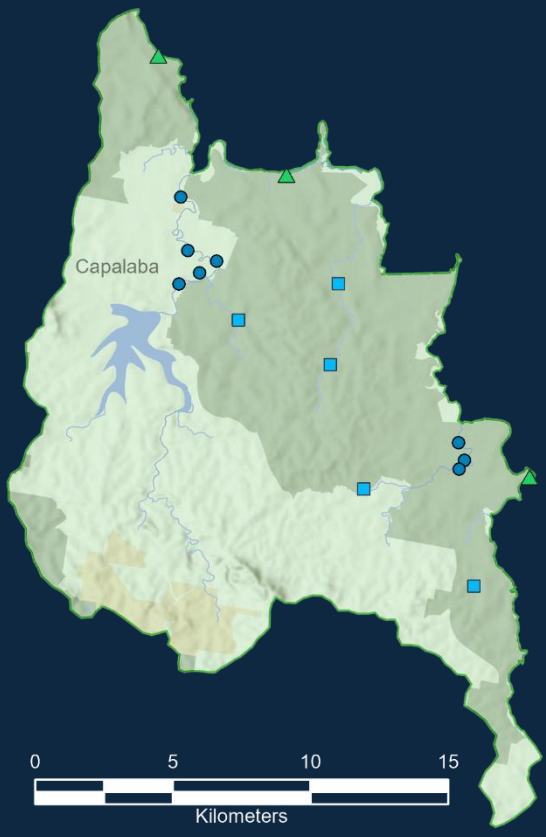
Western

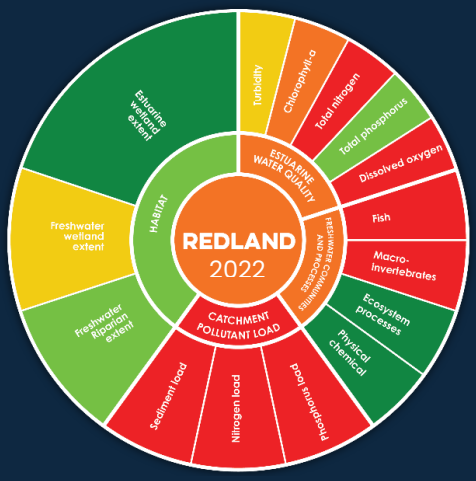
Central

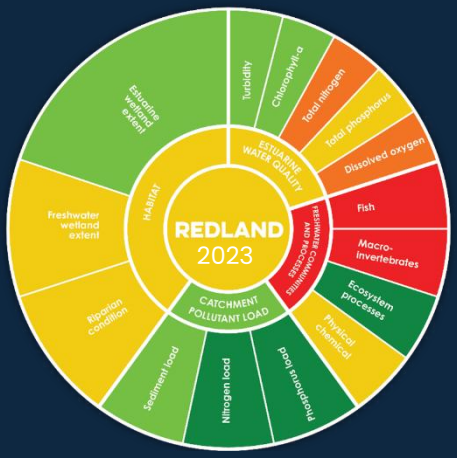
- Caboolture
- Pine
- Lower Brisbane
- Redland

Southern

Bay







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

18.1 Redland catchment: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved from very poor to poor. Ecosystem processes remained in excellent condition. Water quality improved significantly from fair to excellent. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) and freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from very low to high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 158.2 kg/ha in 2023 to 701.1 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered moderate loads of nitrogen (6.3 kg/ha) and very high loads of phosphorus (2.6 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality remained in fair condition. Turbidity improved from very good to excellent condition and dissolved oxygen improved from poor to fair condition . Algae (phytoplankton) remained in very good condition. Total nitrogen remains in poor condition and total phosphorus remains in fair condition.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains fair (53% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is very good, with 86% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

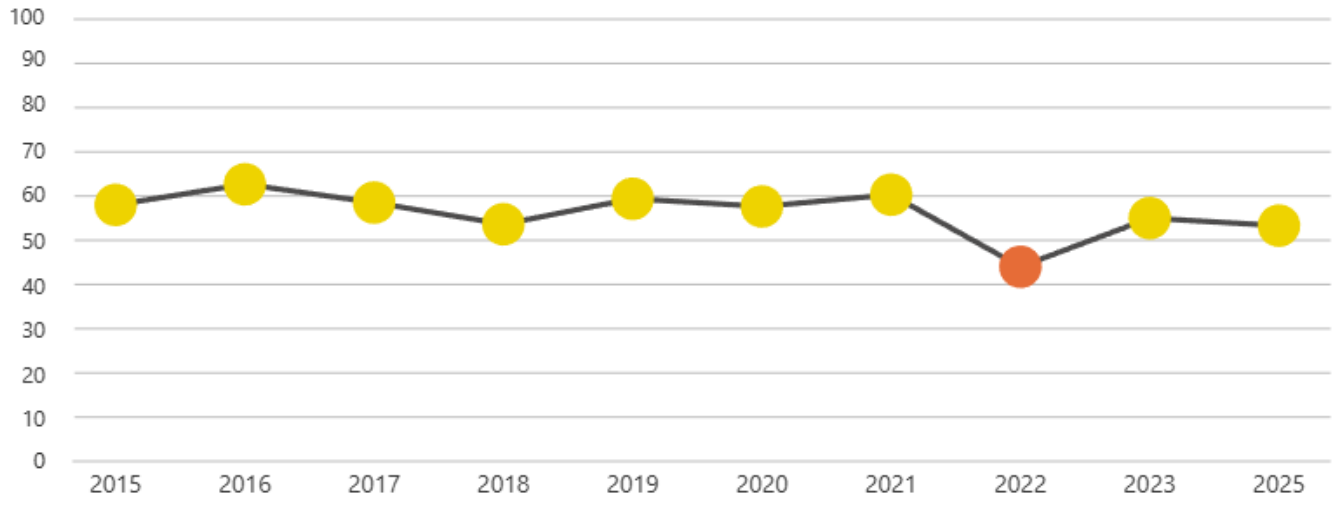
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is poor with >80% woody cover in 42% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very good. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing has been minimal. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 1.5 hectares

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Tingalpa estuary is in very good condition. Factors influencing condition include moderate diversity and connectivity of key habitats and seagrass at the mouth.

Over time



18.2 Redland catchment: Social and economic benefits: high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Redland catchment reported extremely high usability (80%) and extremely high accessibility (82%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (81%) which is an improvement from (74%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Redland catchment reported very high (83%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Redland catchment reported extremely high (89%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Redland catchment reported extremely high (84%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

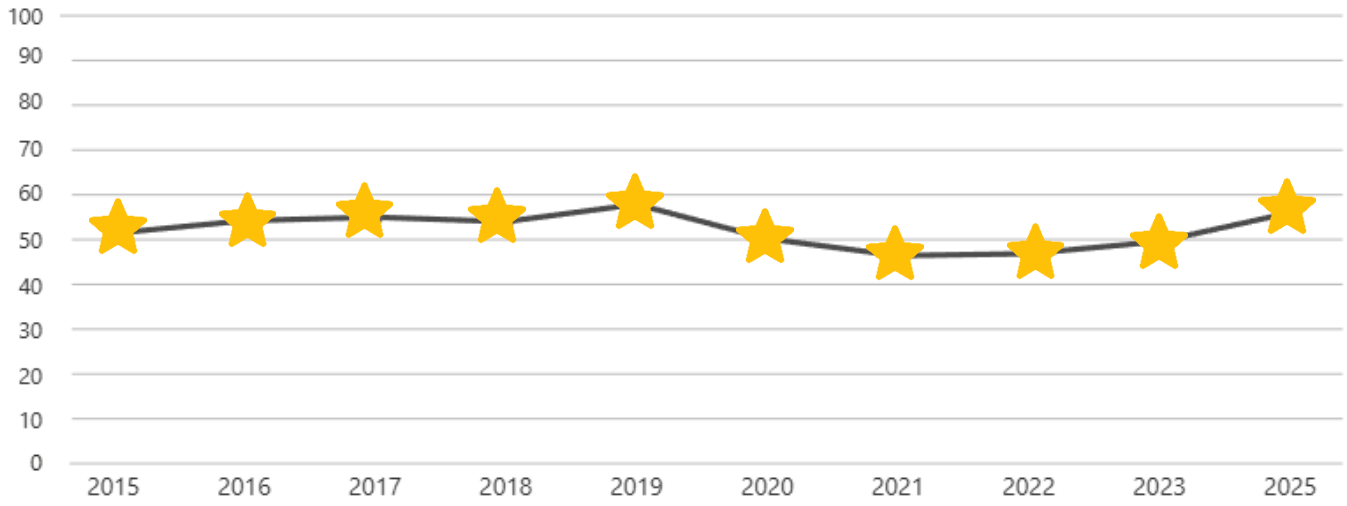
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $808/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (37% of value), recreational fishing (19% of value) and walking and running (14% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 3,853ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



18.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Redlands catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Mid Brisbane catchment

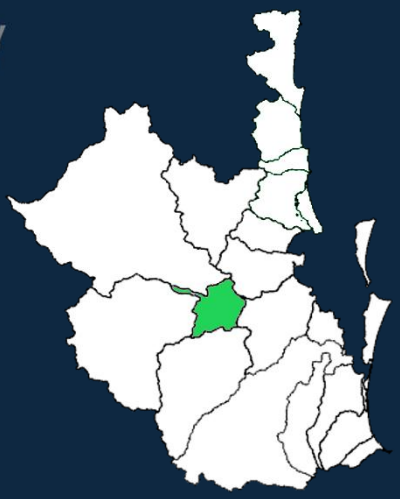
Northern

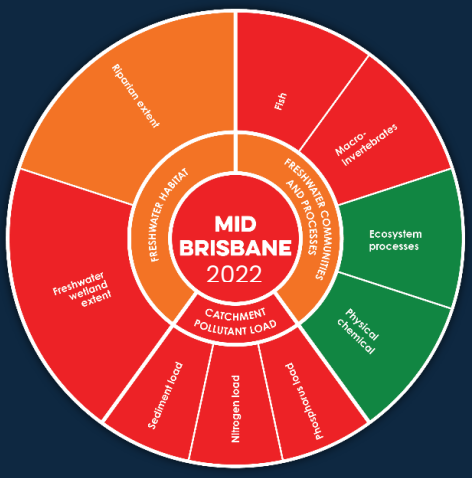
Western
- Mid-Brisbane
- Upper Brisbane
- Stanley
- Lockyer
- Bremer

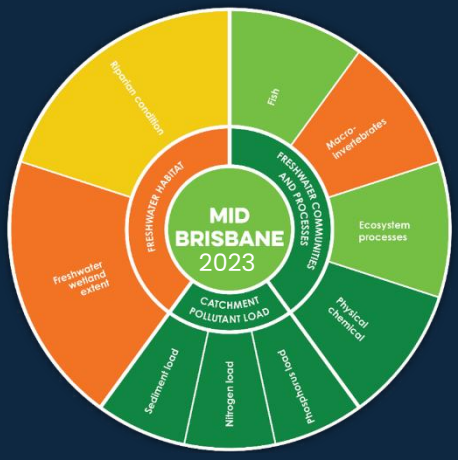
Central

Southern

Bay







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

19.1 Mid Brisbane catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health declined significantly from excellent to very poor. Water quality remained in excellent condition. Ecosystem processes declined from very good to very poor. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) declined from poor to very poor. Freshwater fish declined significantly from very good to poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads remained very low, with sediment (mud) loads slightly increasing from 24.3 kg/ha in 2023 to 39.4 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very low loads of nitrogen (2.5 kg/ha) and moderate loads of phosphorus (1.1 kg/ha) to waterways.

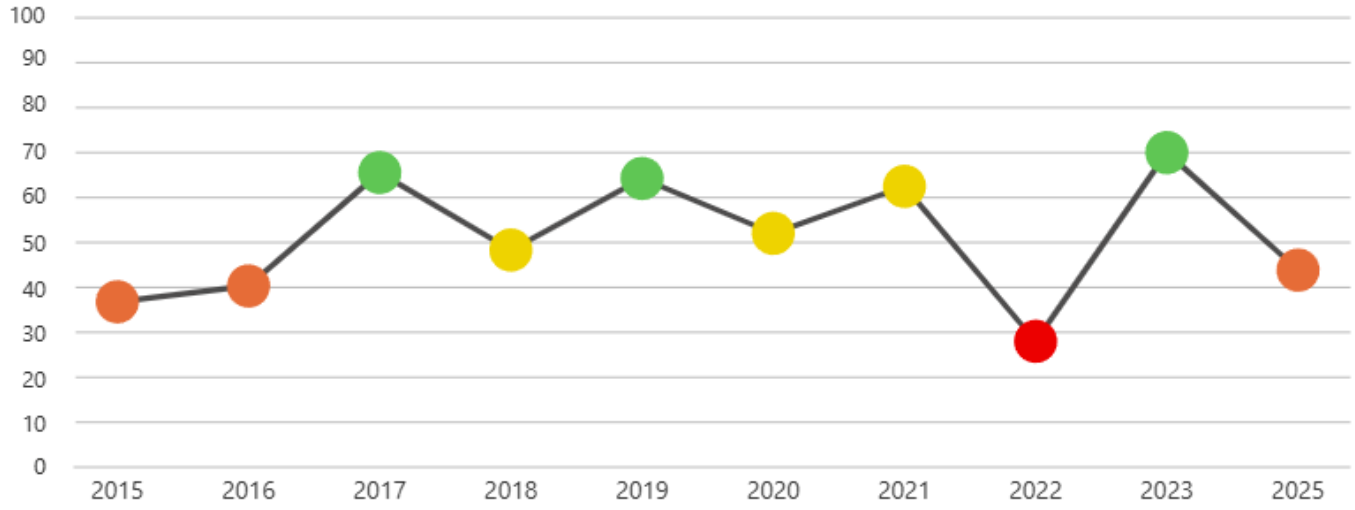
Wetland extent

Wetland extent is poor in the freshwater reaches of the catchment with 38% remaining compared to the pre-clearing extent.

Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is fair with >80% woody cover in 49% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is fair. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing has been minimal. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover has reduced 69 hectares.

Over time



19.2 Mid Brisbane catchment: Social and economic benefits: high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Mid Brisbane catchment reported very high usability (69%) and high accessibility (59%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (64%) which is a slight decline from (67%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Mid Brisbane catchment reported very high (67%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Mid Brisbane catchment reported extremely high (90%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Mid Brisbane catchment reported very high (70%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

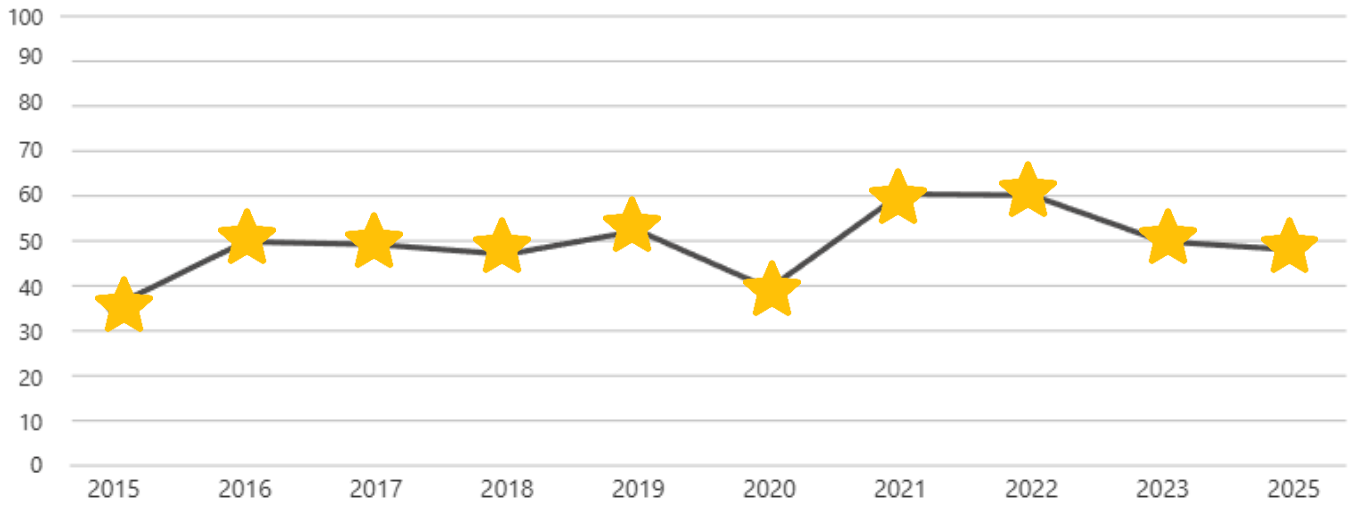
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $577/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (45% of value), swimming (15% of value) and recreational fishing (12% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 120,031ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



19.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the waterways and wetlands of the Mid-Brisbane catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practices across grazing and horticultural landscapes of the region to protect drinking water.
- Reduce diffuse fine sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, whichincludes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within the catchment.
- Slow water down in the upper catchment to manage floodwater, reduce erosion, and rehydrate the landscape by protecting and increasing vegetation (especially along riparian zones) and engaging floodplains through policy, land-use planning, incentives, and compliance.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to reduce improve conserve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil, reducing stormwater discharge.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Upper Brisbane catchment

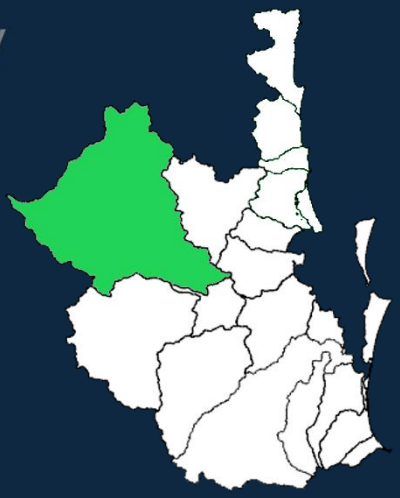
Northern

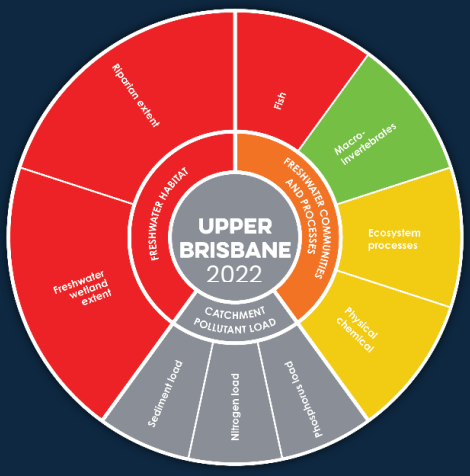
Western
- Mid-Brisbane
- Upper Brisbane
- Stanley
- Lockyer
- Bremer

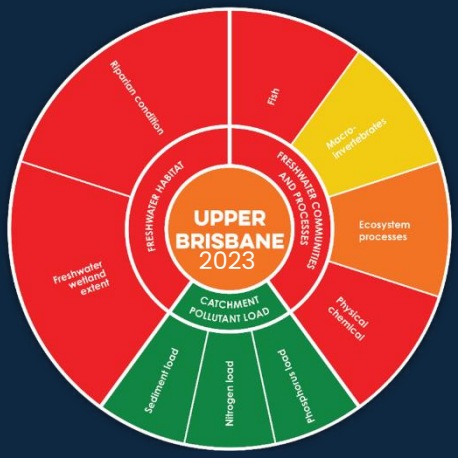
Central

Southern

Bay







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

20.1 Upper Brisbane catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health remained in very poor condition. Water quality improved from very poor to fair. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from fair to excellent. Ecosystem processes declined significantly from poor to very poor, while freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads remained very low, with sediment (mud) loads slightly reducing from 38.9 kg/ha in 2023 to 14.6 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very low loads of nitrogen (0.7 kg/ha) and phosphorus (0.3 kg/ha) to waterways.

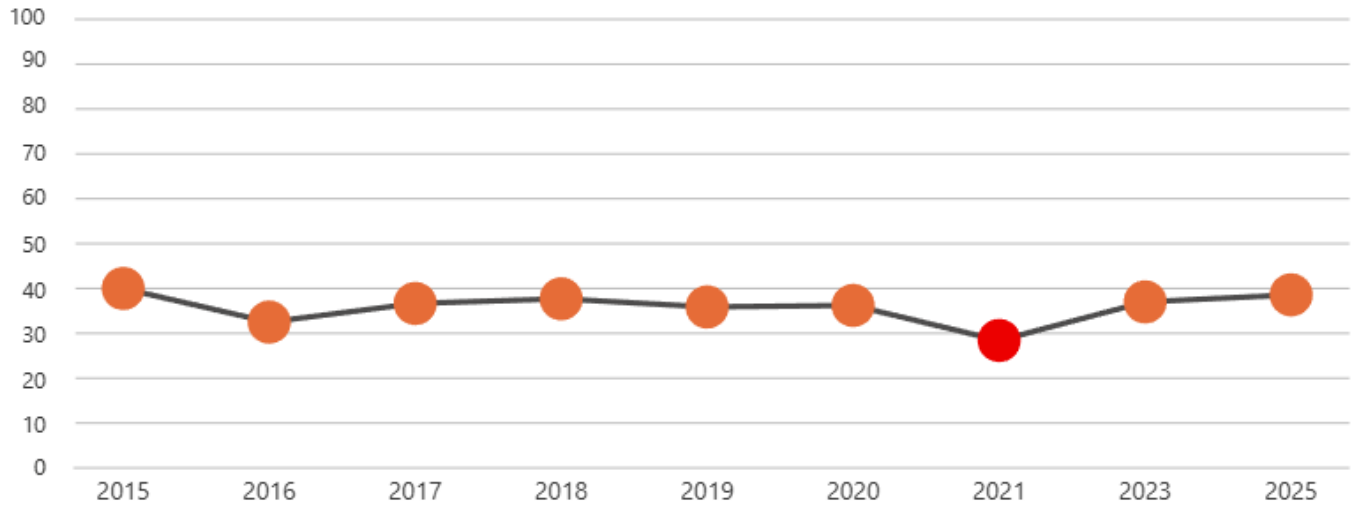
Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains very poor (24% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment.

Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very poor with >80% woody cover in only 28% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition very poor. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 1155 hectares.

Over time



20.2 Upper Brisbane catchment: Social and economic benefits: high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Upper Brisbane catchment reported very high usability (69%) and high accessibility (59%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (64%) which is a slight decline from (67%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Upper Brisbane catchment reported very high (67%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Upper Brisbane catchment reported extremely high (90%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Upper Brisbane catchment reported very high (70%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $577/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (45% of value), swimming (15% of value) and recreational fishing (12% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 116,344ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time

20.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the waterways and wetlands of the Upper Brisbane catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including soil retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practices across grazing and horticultural landscapes of the region to protect drinking water and enhance agricultural productivity.
- Reduce diffuse fine sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, which includes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within the catchment.
- Slow water down in the upper catchment to manage floodwater, reduce erosion, and rehydrate the landscape by protecting and increasing vegetation (especially along riparian zones) and engaging floodplains through policy, land-use planning, incentives, and compliance.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil, reducing stormwater discharge.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

.

Stanley catchment

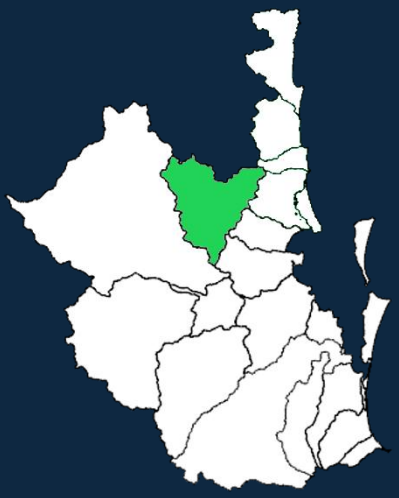
Northern

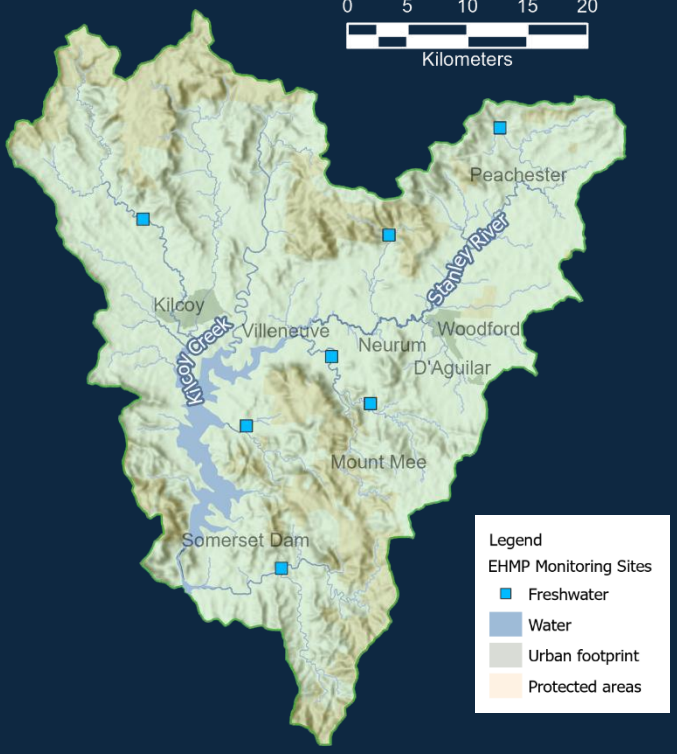
Western
- Mid-Brisbane
- Upper Brisbane
- Stanley ✓
- Lockyer
- Bremer

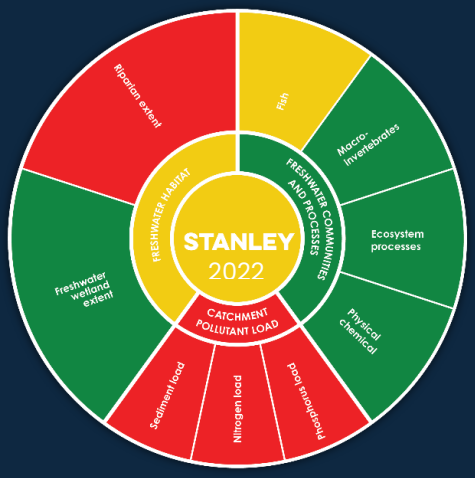
Central

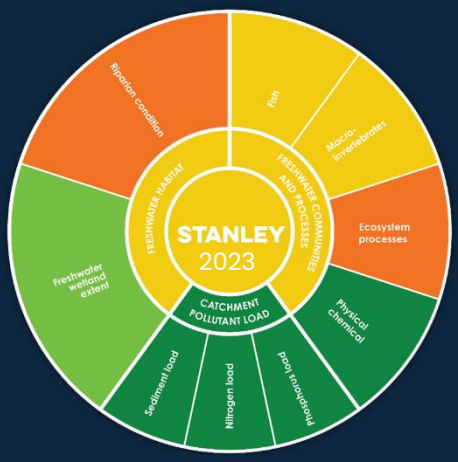
Southern

Bay









Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

21.1 Stanley catchment: Environmental condition: very good

Very good

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from fair to excellent. Water quality remained in excellent condition. Ecosystem processes improved from poor to very good condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved significantly fair to excellent condition. Freshwater fish remained in fair condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from very low to high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 46.7 kg/ha in 2023 to 1355.7 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered moderate loads of nitrogen (5.5 kg/ha) and phosphorus (1.5 kg/ha) to waterways.

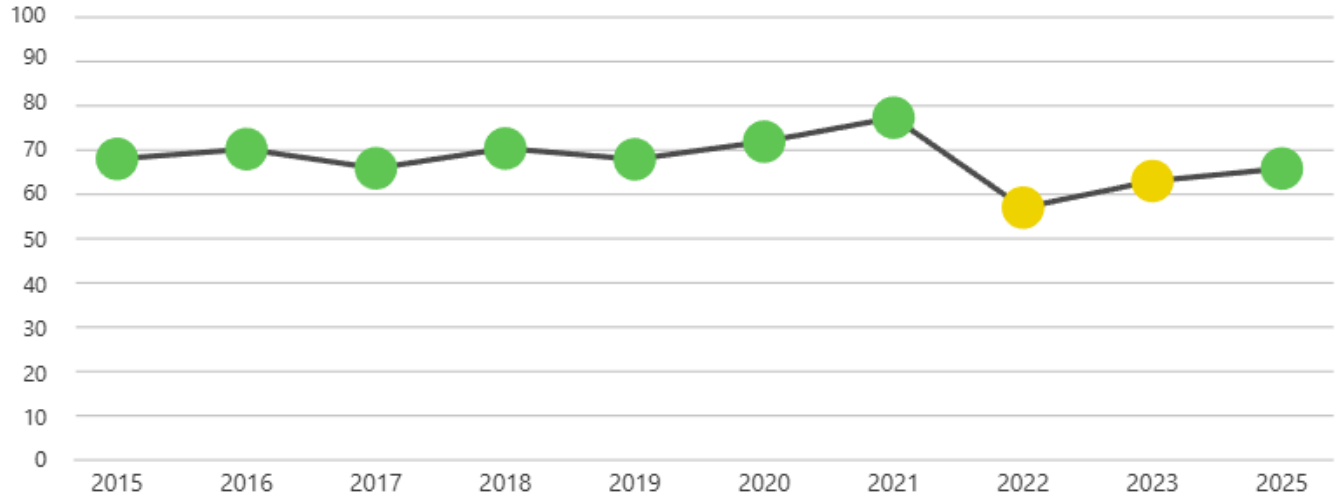
Wetland extent

Wetland extent is very good (67% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment.

Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very poor with >80% woody cover in 28% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is poor. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 97 hectares.

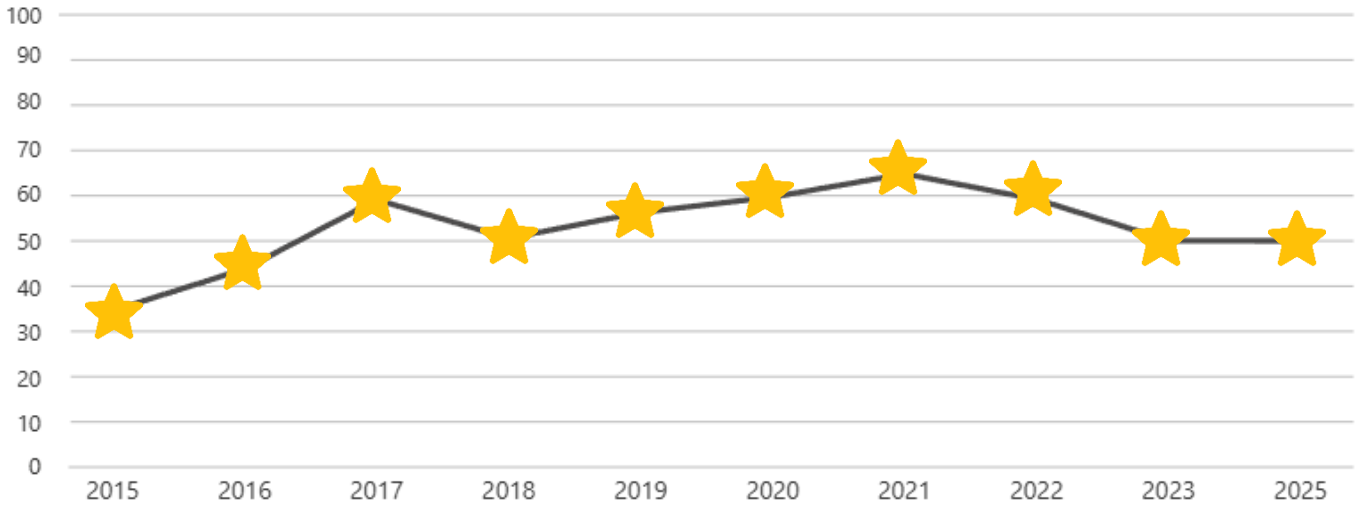
Over time



21.2 Stanley catchment: Social and economic benefits: high

Accessibility and useability	Respondents in the Stanley catchment reported very high usability (69%) and high accessibility (59%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (64%) which is a slight decline from (67%) in 2023.
Satisfaction with experience	Respondents in the Stanley catchment reported very high (67%) satisfaction with their local waterways.
Connection with waterways	Respondents in the Stanley catchment reported extremely high (90%) connection with their local waterways.
Personal benefits	Respondents in the Stanley catchment reported very high (70%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.
Recreational benefits	The waterway recreational value per person was $577/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (45% of value), swimming (15% of value) and recreational fishing (12% of value).
Drinking water	The catchment supplied over 1,246ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



21.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the waterways and wetlands of the Upper Brisbane catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including soil retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practices across grazing and horticultural landscapes of the region to protect drinking water and enhance agricultural productivity.
- Reduce diffuse fine sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, which includes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within the catchment.
- Slow water down in the upper catchment to manage floodwater, reduce erosion, and rehydrate the landscape by protecting and increasing vegetation (especially along riparian zones) and engaging floodplains through policy, land-use planning, incentives, and compliance.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil, reducing stormwater discharge.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Lockyer catchment

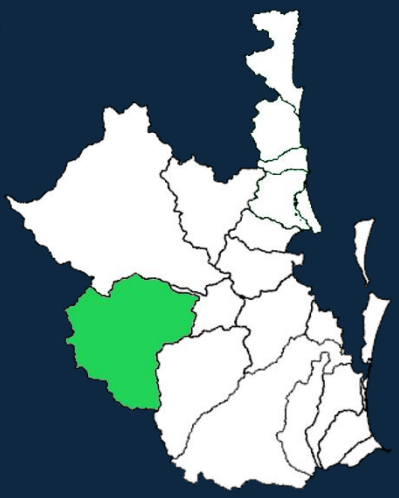
Northern

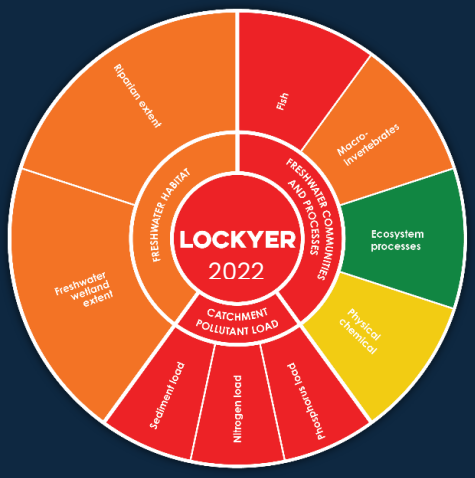
Western
- Mid-Brisbane
- Upper Brisbane
- Stanley
- Lockyer ✓
- Bremer

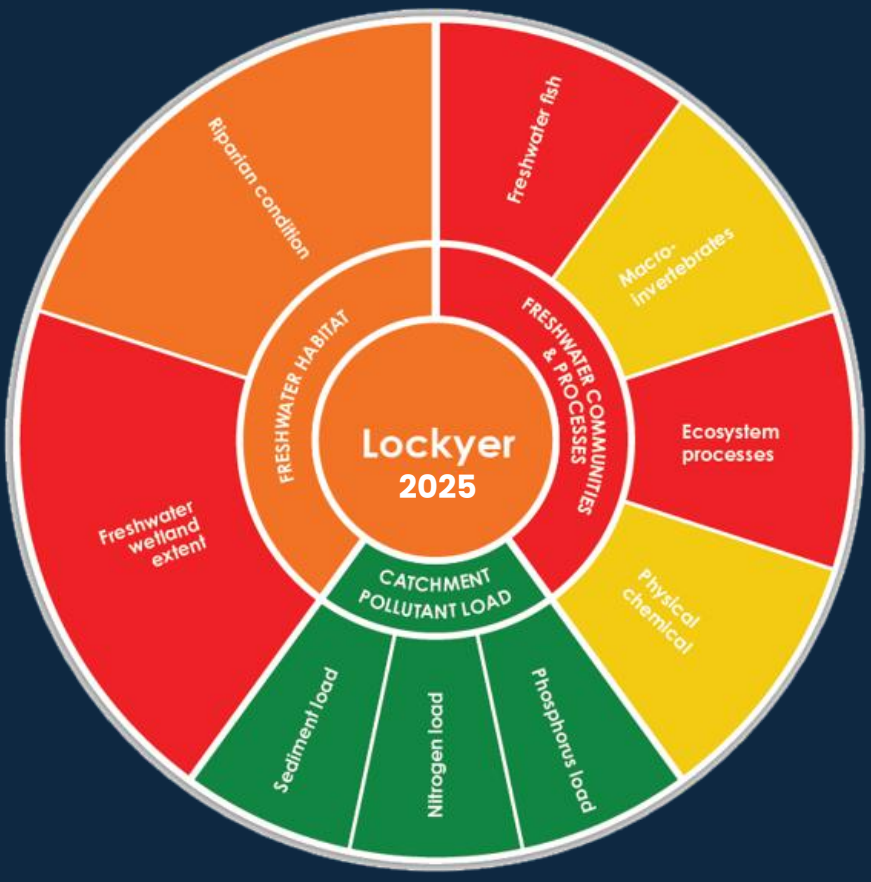
Central

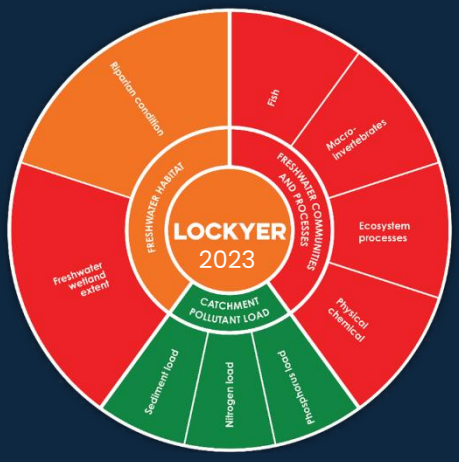
Southern

Bay









Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

22.1 Lockyer catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health remained in very poor condition. Water quality and macroinvertebrates (bugs), both improved significantly from very poor to fair condition, while ecosystem processes and freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads remained very low, with sediment (mud) loads slightly reducing from 39.6 kg/ha in 2023 to 15.2 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very low loads of nitrogen (0.7 kg/ha) and phosphorus (0.3 kg/ha) to waterways.

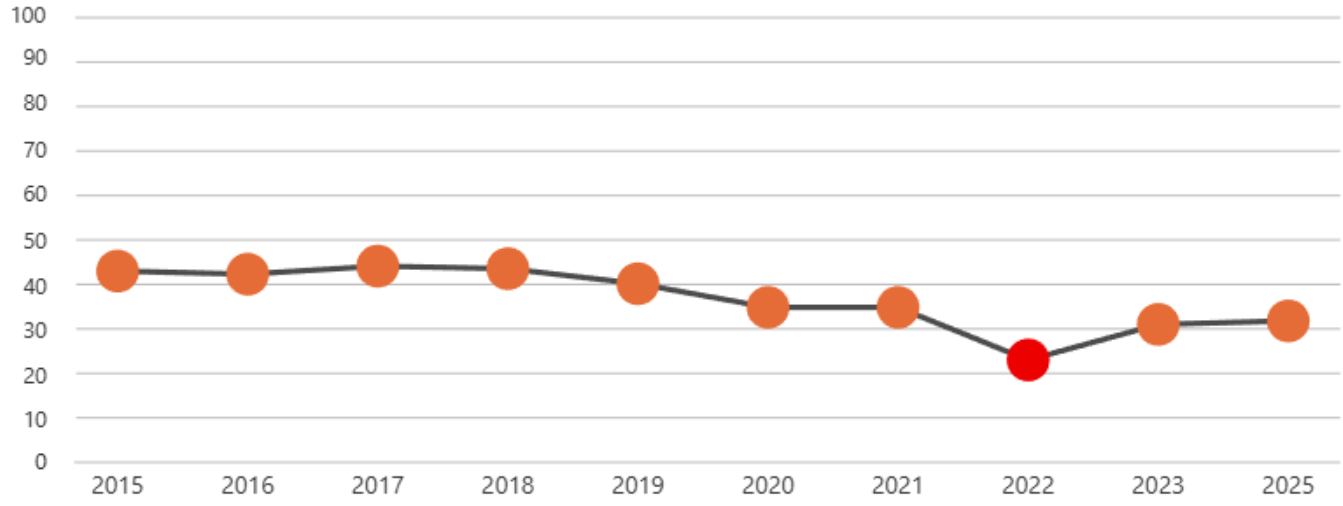
Wetland extent

Wetland extent is very poor (26% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment.

Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is poor with >80% woody cover in 46% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very poor. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 480 hectares.

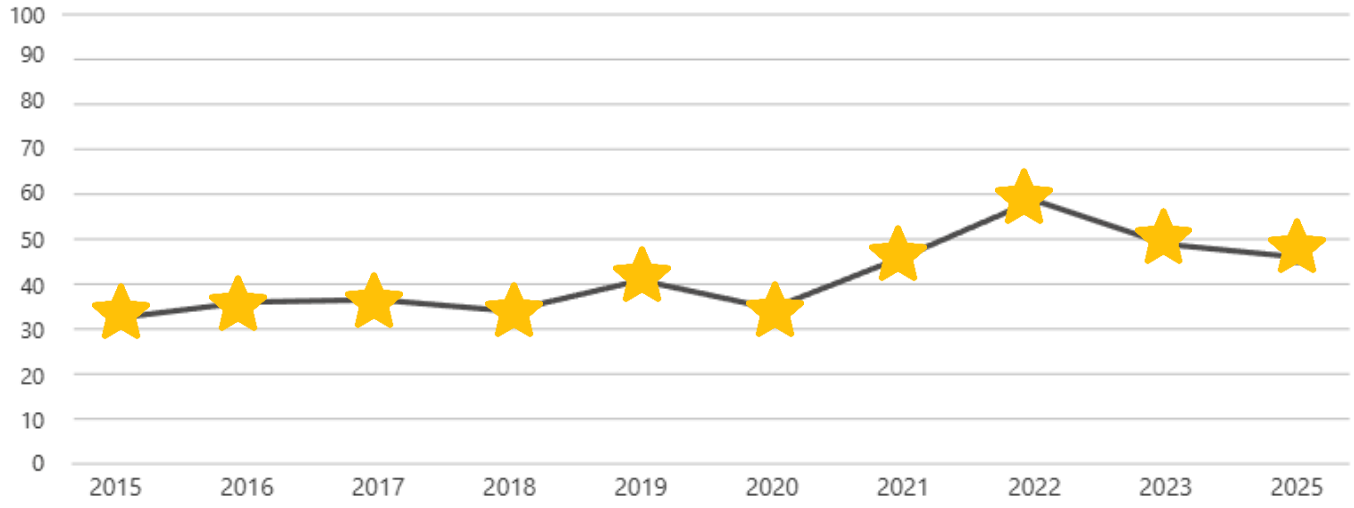
Over time



22.2 Lockyer catchment: Social and economic benefits: high

Accessibility and useability	Respondents in the Lockyer catchment reported very high usability (60%) and very high accessibility (63%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (62%) which is a slight decline from (65%) in 2023.
Satisfaction with experience	Respondents in the Lockyer catchment reported high (57%) satisfaction with their local waterways.
Connection with waterways	Respondents in the Lockyer catchment reported extremely high (81%) connection with their local waterways.
Personal benefits	Respondents in the Lockyer catchment reported very high (63%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.
Recreational benefits	The waterway recreational value per person was $850/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (28% of value), boating or sailing (25% of value) and recreational fishing (23% of value).
Drinking water	The catchment supplied over 120,031ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very high levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



22.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the waterways and wetlands of the Lockyer catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including soil retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and improve riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practices across grazing and horticultural landscapes of the region to protect drinking water.
- Reduce diffuse fine sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, which includes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within the catchment.
- Slow water down in the upper catchment to manage floodwater, reduce erosion, and rehydrate the landscape by protecting and increasing vegetation (especially along riparian zones) and engaging floodplains through policy, land-use planning, incentives, and compliance.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Deliver education for rural residential landholders (including Landholder Guides) for improved natural resource management outcomes.
- Promote the positive community actions underway in catchments with water quality issues to share knowledge about what works to improve waterway health.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil, reducing stormwater discharge.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Bremer catchment

Northern

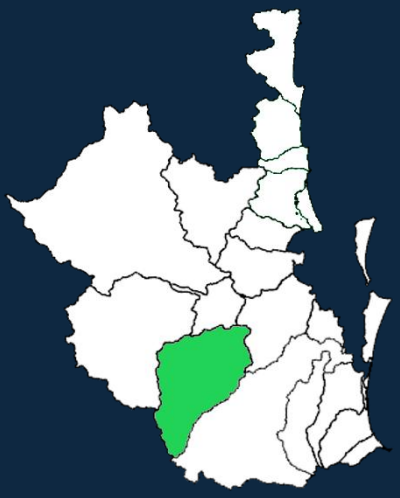
Western

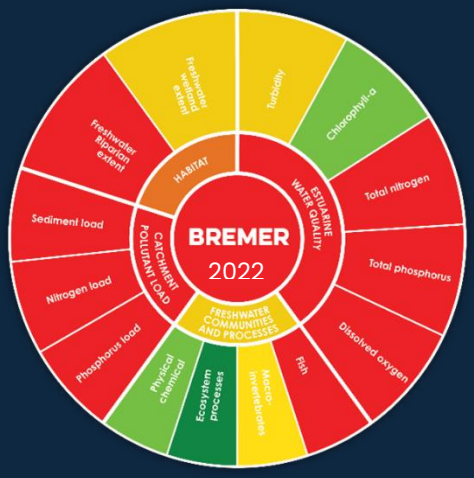
- Mid-Brisbane
- Upper Brisbane
- Stanley
- Lockyer
- Bremer

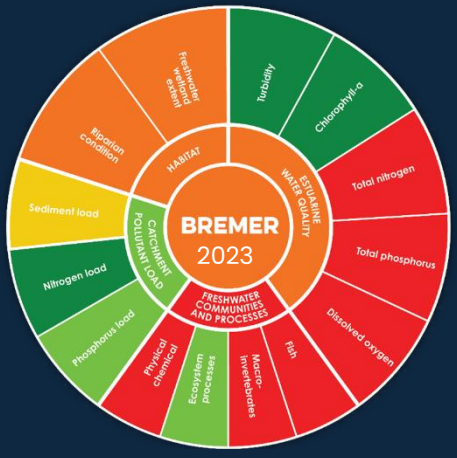
Central

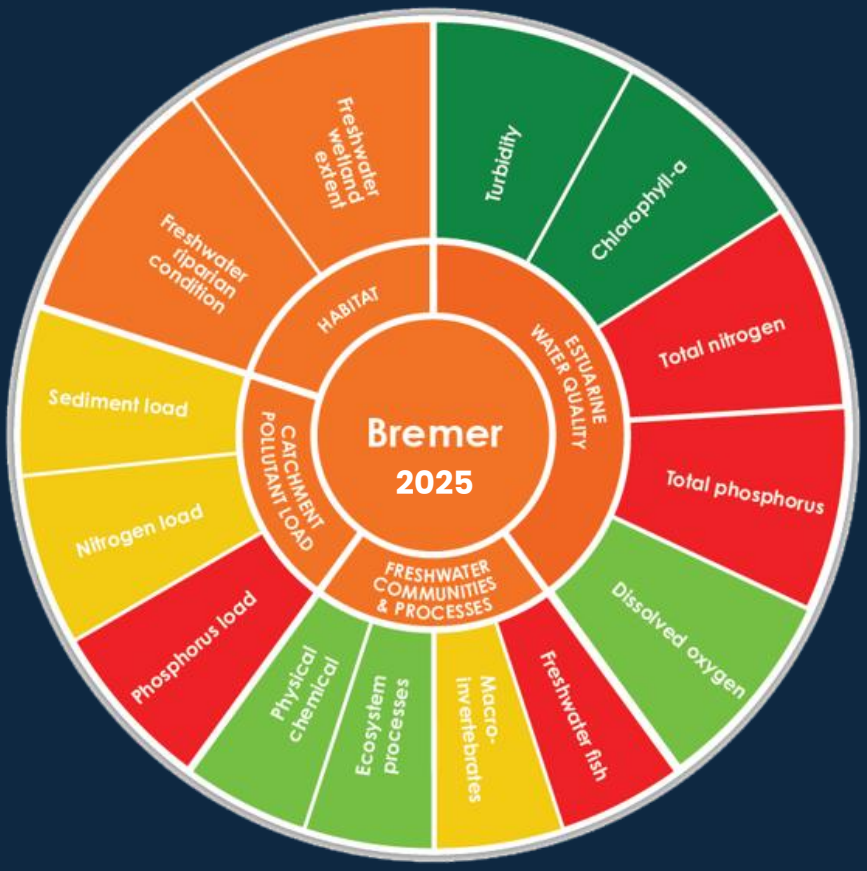
Southern

Bay









Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

23.1 Bremer catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from very poor to poor. Ecosystem processes remained in very good condition. Water quality improved from very poor to very good condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from very poor to fair condition. Freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 192.6 kg/ha in 2023 to 644.4 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered moderate loads of nitrogen (5.6 kg/ha) and very high loads of phosphorus (2.5 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine marine water quality

Estuarine water quality slightly declined but remained in poor condition. Turbidity and algae (phytoplankton) remained in excellent condition while dissolved oxygen improved significantly from very poor to very good. Nutrients (total nitrogen and phosphorus) remained in very poor condition.

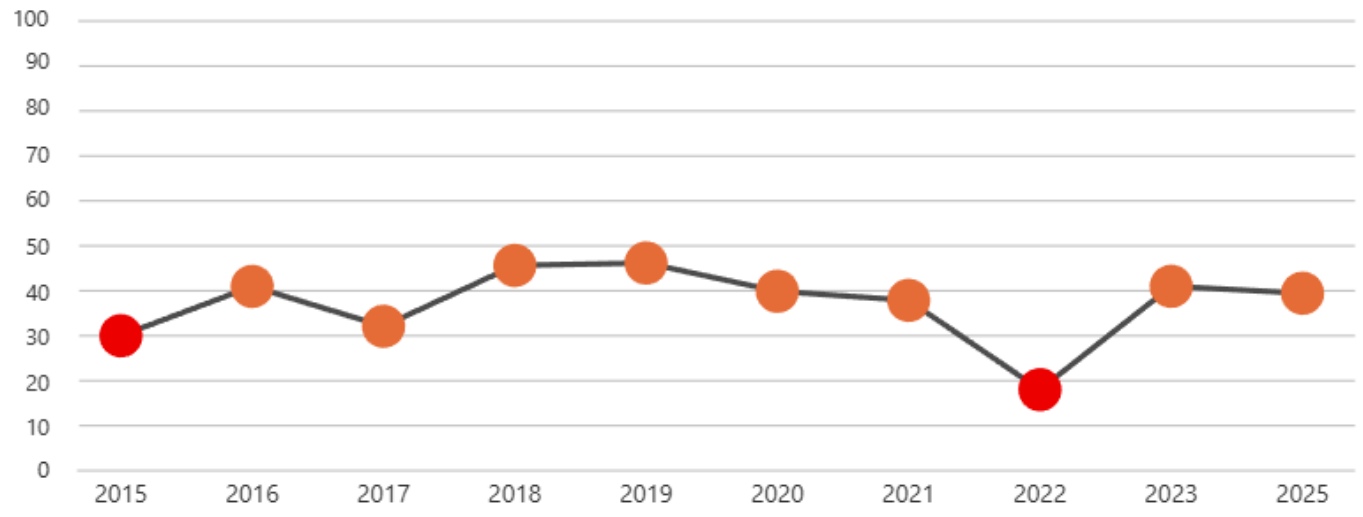
Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains poor (41% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment.

Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very poor with >80% woody cover only 19% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very poor. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 304 hectares.

Over time



23.2 Bremer catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Bremer catchment reported high usability (58%) and high accessibility (59%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore high (59%) which is an improvement from (52%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Bremer catchment reported high (54%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Bremer catchment reported extremely high (85%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Bremer catchment reported very high (64%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

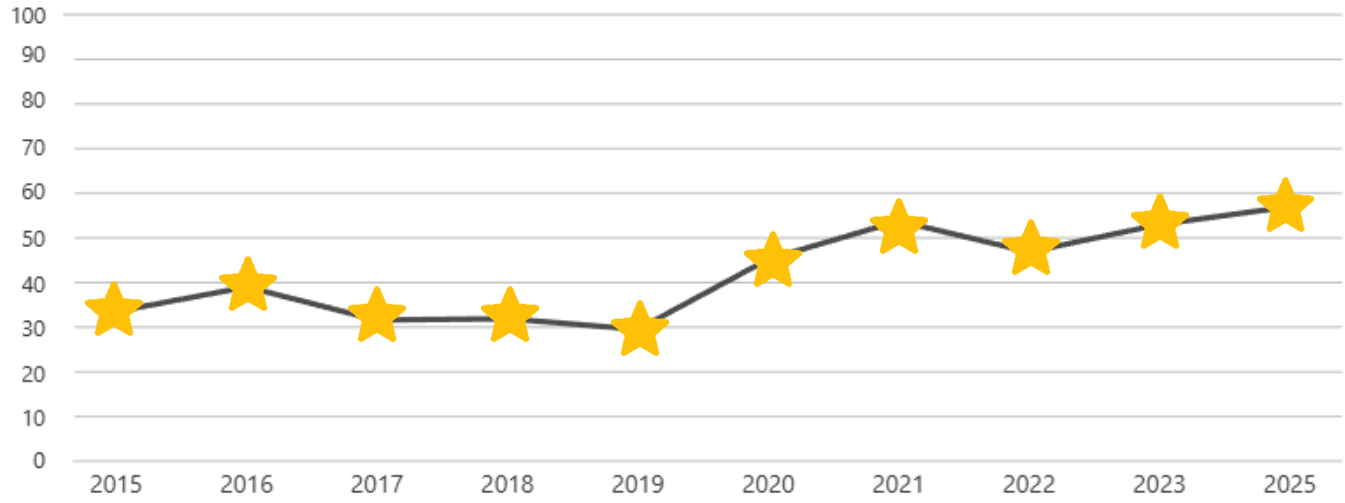
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $598/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (37% of value), boating or sailing (22% of value) and recreational fishing (20% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 563ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Low levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



23.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the waterways and wetlands of the Bremer catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including soil retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and improve riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practices across grazing and horticultural landscapes of the region to protect drinking water.
- Reduce diffuse fine sediment pollution through long-term catchment rehabilitation, which includes targeted rehabilitation of key sources of sediments within the catchment.
- Slow water down in the upper catchment to manage floodwater, reduce erosion, and rehydrate the landscape by protecting and increasing vegetation (especially along riparian zones) and engaging floodplains through policy, land-use planning, incentives, and compliance.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Deliver education for rural residential landholders (including Landholder Guides) for improved natural resource management outcomes.
- Promote the positive community actions underway in catchments with water quality issues to share knowledge about what works to improve waterway health.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to reduce improve conserve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil, reducing stormwater discharge.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Logan catchment

Northern

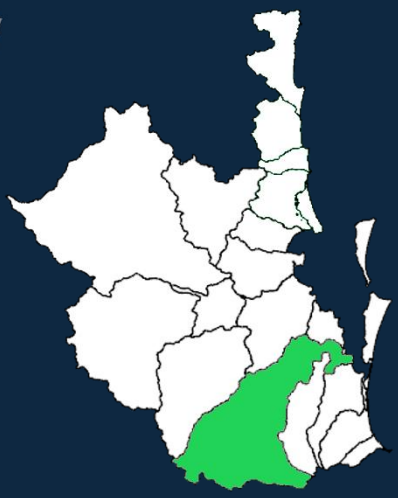
Western

Central

Southern

Bay

- Logan
- Albert
- Pimpama-Coomera
- Nerang
- Tallebudgera-Currumbin



Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

24.1 Logan catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved from very poor to poor. Ecosystem processes remained in excellent condition. Water quality improved significantly from very good to excellent, while macroinvertebrates (bugs) and freshwater fish remained in very poor condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 168.4 kg/ha in 2023 to 1925.4 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered high loads of nitrogen (7.4 kg/ha) and very high loads of phosphorus (2.6 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality declined significantly from fair to very poor condition. Nutrients (total nitrogen and phosphorus) increased remaining in very poor condition. Turbidity declined from very good to fair condition. Algae (phytoplankton)increased changing from fair to poor condition. Dissolved oxygen declined from very good to fair condition.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent is very poor (29% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is fair, with 73% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

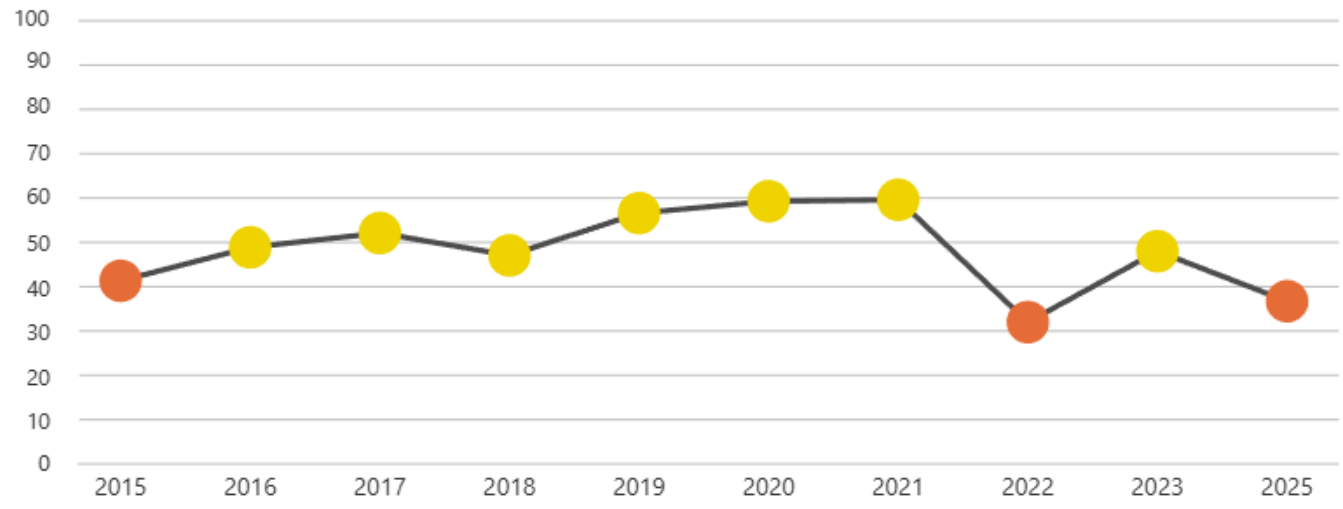
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very poor with >80% woody cover in only 24% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very poor. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 368 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Logan estuary is in very poor condition. Factors influencing condition include very poor water quality, limited diversity and connectivity of key habitats.

Over time



24.2 Logan catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Logan catchment reported very high usability (65%) and very high accessibility (66%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (66%) which is a slight improvement from (60%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Logan catchment reported very high (60%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Logan catchment reported extremely high (85%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Logan catchment reported very high (68%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

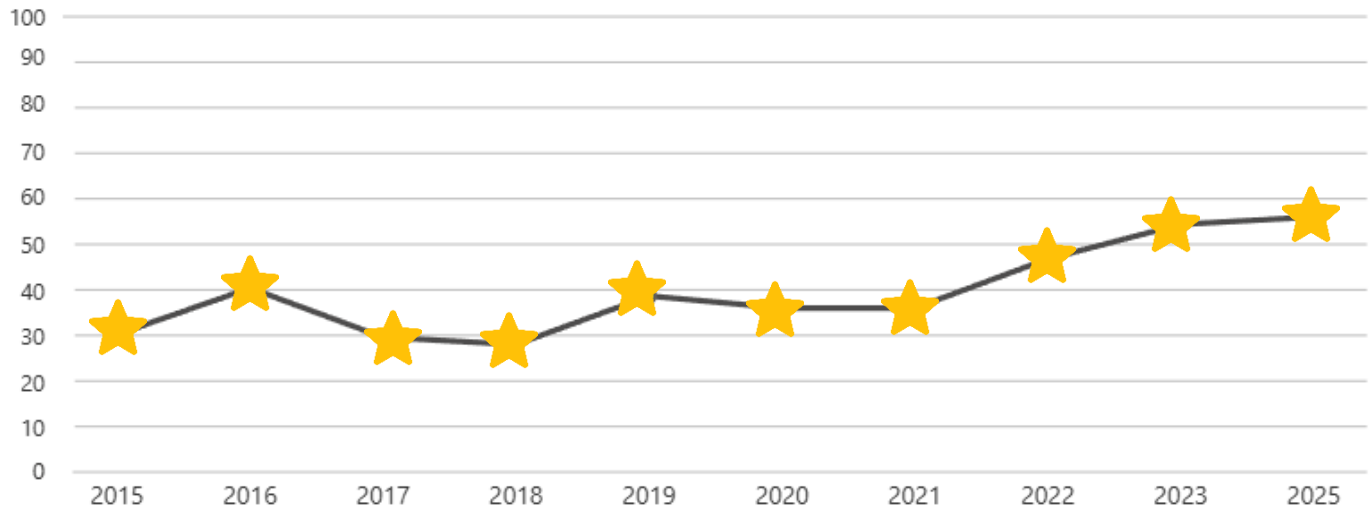
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $744/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (37% of value) boating or sailing (21% of value) and recreational fishing (21% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 854ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Moderate levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



24.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Logan catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Implement management and education programs like Landholder Guides that cover weeds, pests and fire, both fire preparedness and use of fire for ecological and environmental management.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Albert catchment

Northern

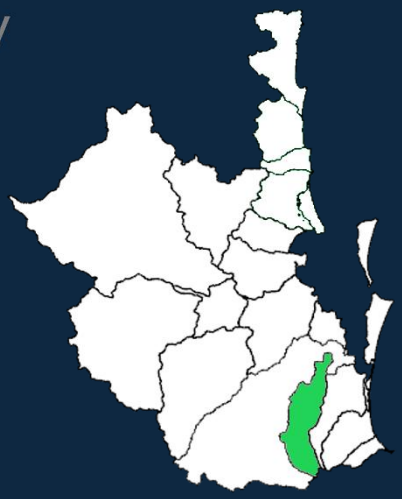
Western

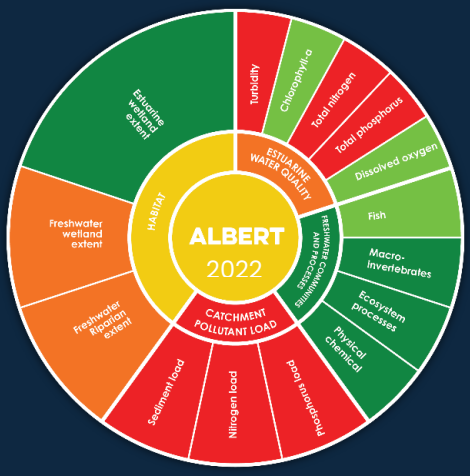
Central

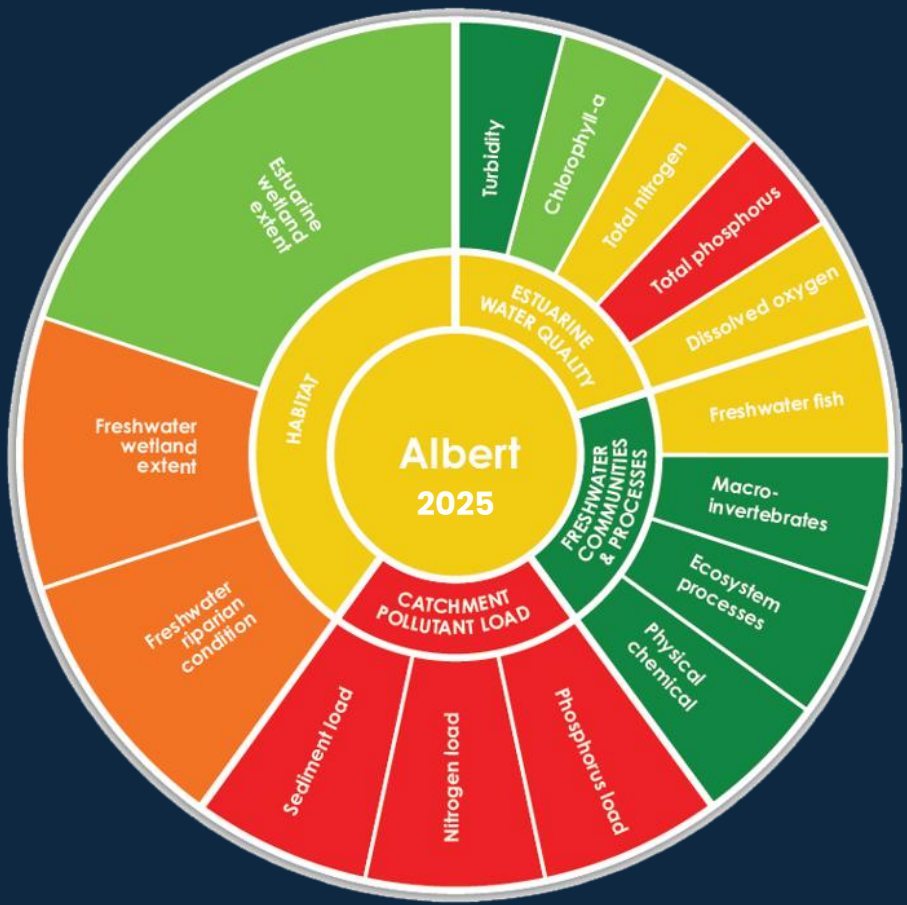
Southern

Bay

- Logan
- Albert
- Pimpama-Coomera
- Nerang
- Tallebudgera-Currumbin







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

25.1 Albert catchment: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from very good to excellent. Ecosystem processes and water quality remained in excellent condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved significantly from very poor to excellent, while freshwater fish declined from very good to fair condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 301.2 kg/ha in 2023 to 3217.8 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (13.8 kg/ha) and phosphorus (5.7 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality declined from very good to fair condition. Turbidity increased slightly but remained in excellent condition. Total nitrogen declined from very good to fair condition. Algae (phytoplankton) declined from excellent to good condition. Dissolved oxygen declined from very good to fair condition.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains poor (44% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is very good, with 76% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

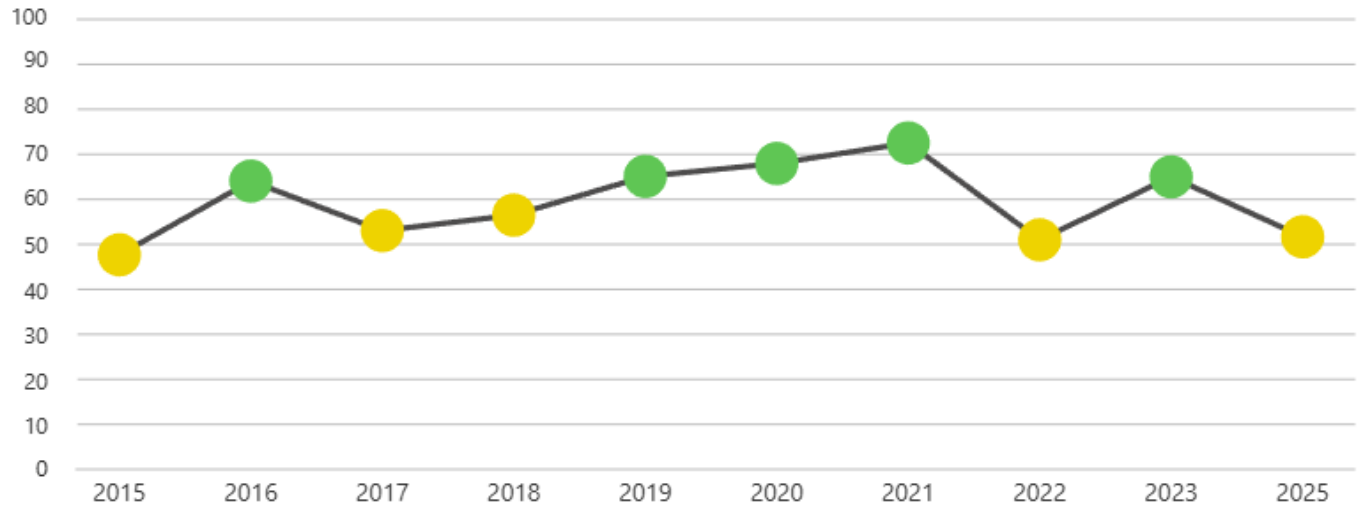
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in poor condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is poor with >80% woody cover in 41% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is fair. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing has been minimal. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 62 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Albert estuary is in very poor condition. Factors influencing condition include limited diversity and connectivity of key habitats.

Over time



25.2 Albert catchment: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Albert catchment reported very high usability (63%) and very high accessibility (63%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore very high (63%) which is a slight decrease from (66%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Albert catchment reported very high (65%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Albert catchment reported extremely high (94%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Albert catchment reported very high (62%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

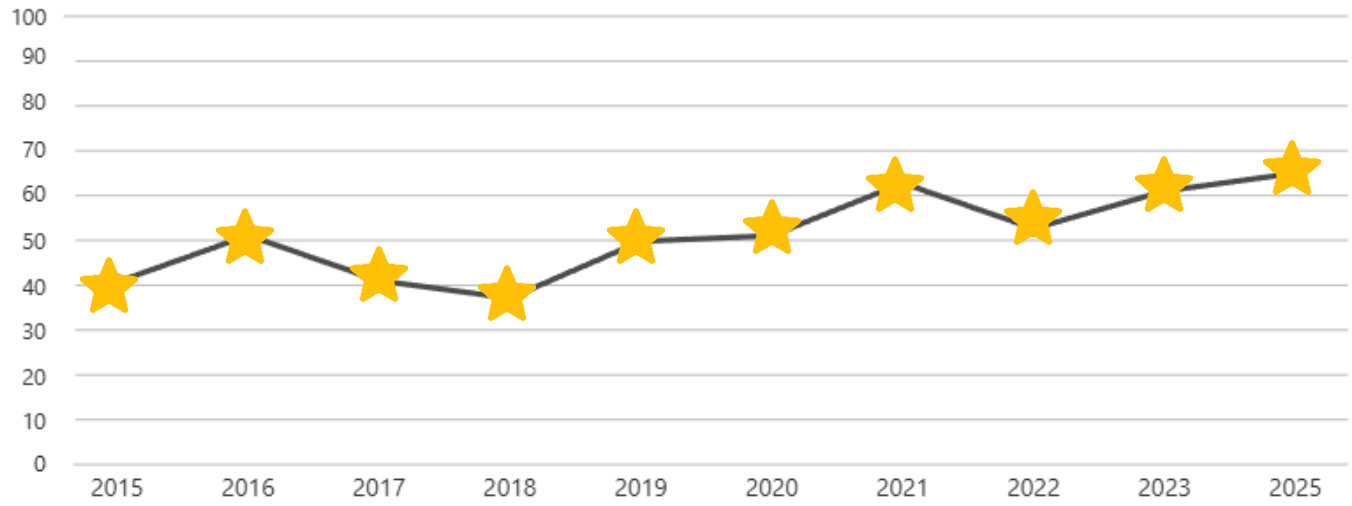
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $558/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (39% of value), rowing, kayaking and canoeing (12% of value) and recreational fishing (24% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 134ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very low levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



25.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Albert catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Implement management and education programs like Landholder Guides that cover weeds, pests and fire, both fire preparedness and use of fire for ecological and environmental management.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Pimpama-Coomera catchment

Northern

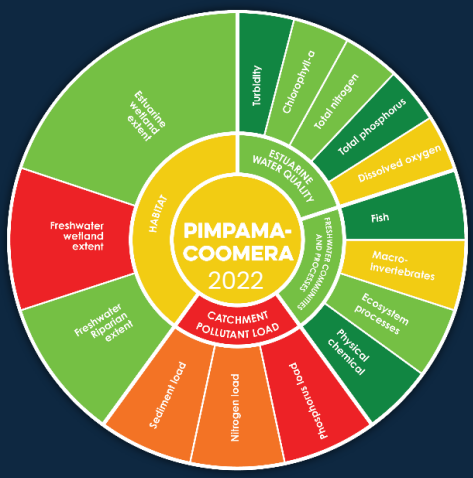
Western

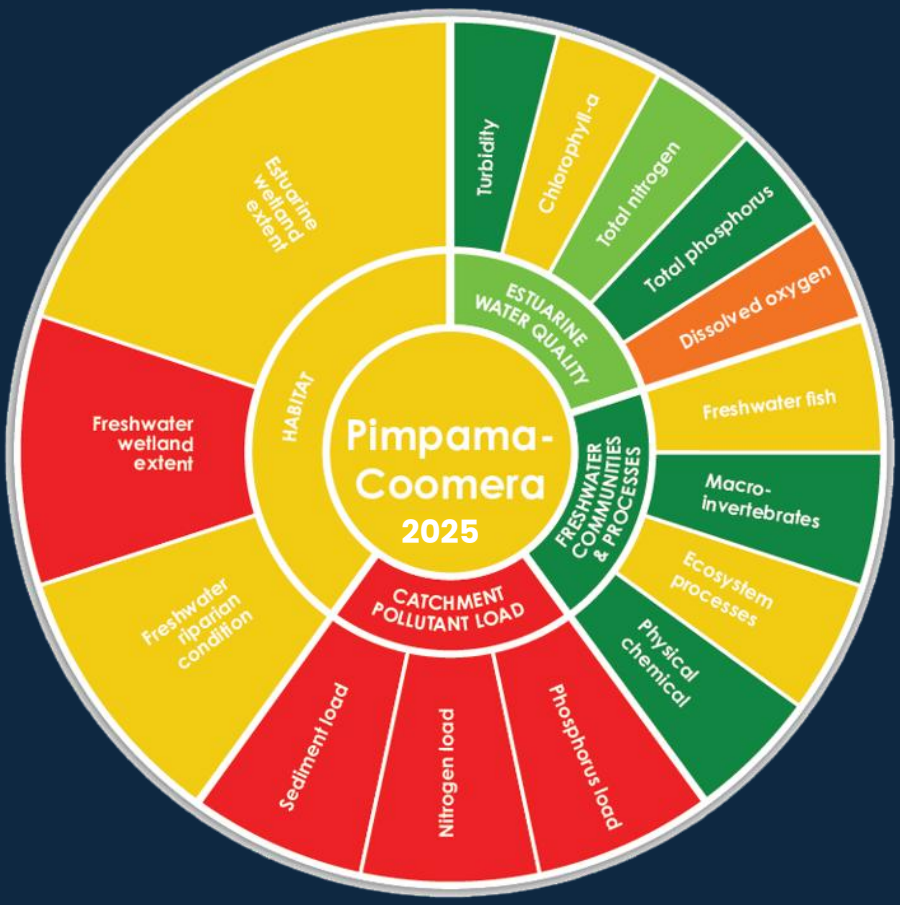
Central

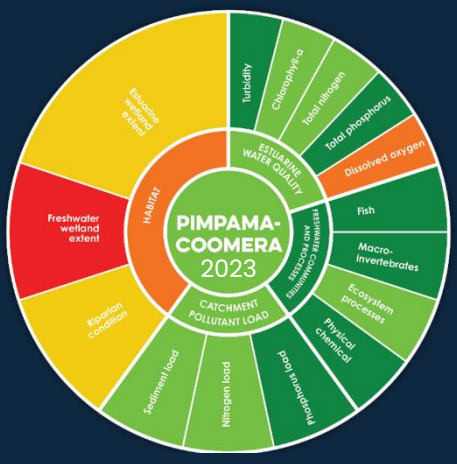
Southern

Bay

- Logan
- Albert
- Pimpama-Coomera
- Nerang
- Tallebudgera-Currumbin







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

26.1 Pimpama-Coomera catchments: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health remained in excellent condition. Ecosystem processes declined from very good to fair condition. Water quality and macroinvertebrates (bugs) remained in excellent condition. Freshwater fish declined significantly from excellent to fair.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from low to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 115.3 kg/ha in 2023 to 2904.2 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (14.1 kg/ha) and phosphorus (5.1 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality remained in very good condition. Turbidity remained in excellent condition. Total nitrogen remained in very good condition. Algae (phytoplankton) decreased from very good to fair condition. Total phosphorus remained in excellent condition. Dissolved oxygen remained in poor condition. There has been a trend of increasing total nitrogen and algae (phytoplankton) in the Coomera estuary over the last 15 years.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains very poor (19% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is fair, with 69% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

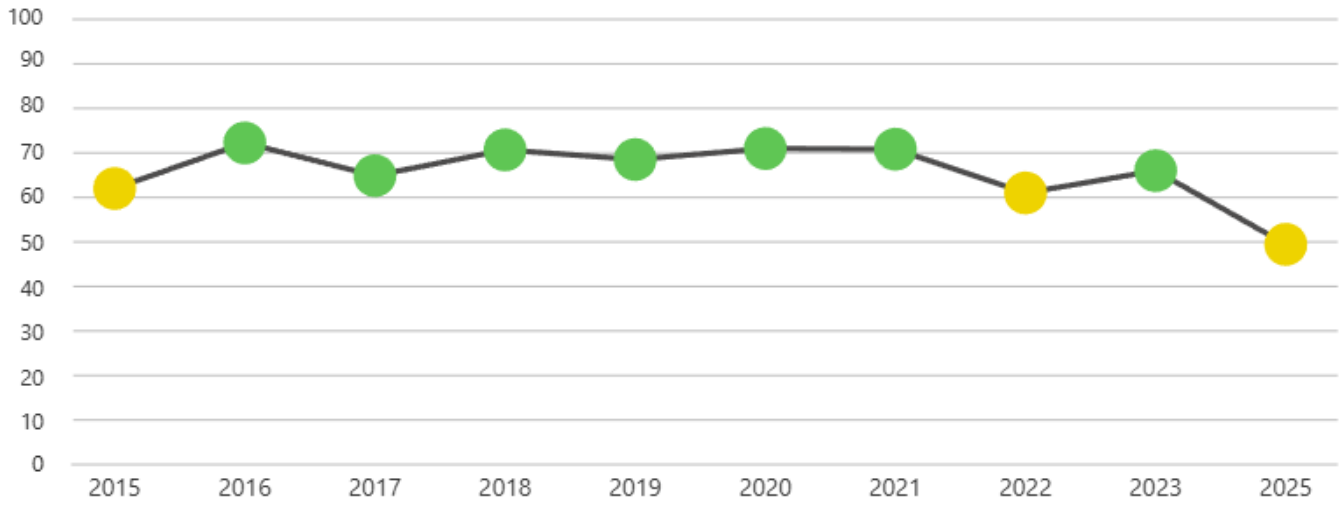
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very good with >80% woody cover in 51% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very good. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing has continued. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 37 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Pimpama estuary is in poor condition. Factors influencing condition include limited diversity and connectivity of key habitats and barrier impacts.

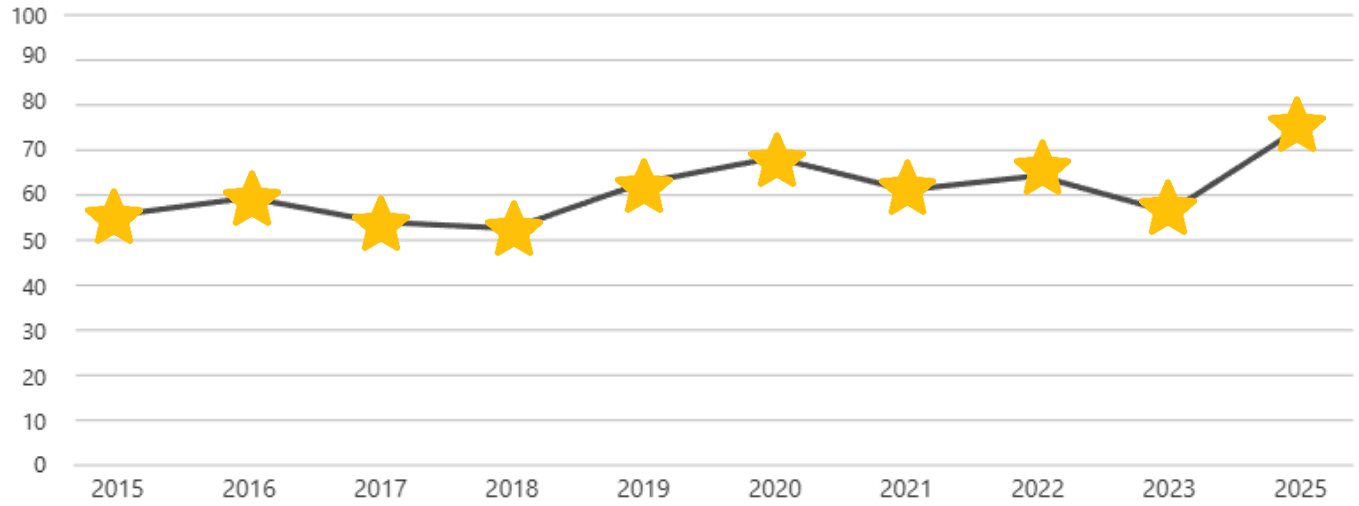
Over time



26.2 Pimpama-Coomera catchments: Social and economic benefits: very high

Accessibility and useability	Respondents in the Pimpama-Coomera catchment reported extremely high usability (85%) and extremely high accessibility (87%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (86%) which is an improvement from (71%) in 2023.
Satisfaction with experience	Respondents in the Pimpama-Coomera catchment reported extremely high (85%) satisfaction with their local waterways.
Connection with waterways	Respondents in the Pimpama-Coomera catchment reported extremely high (88%) connection with their local waterways.
Personal benefits	Respondents in the Pimpama-Coomera catchment reported extremely high (86%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.
Recreational benefits	The waterway recreational value per person was $1,269/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (24% of value), boating or sailing (31% of value) and recreational fishing (19% of value).
Drinking water	The Pimpama-Coomera catchment does not receive a drinking water score as the catchment does not have a drinking water dam within its boundary.

Over time



26.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Pimpama-Coomera catchments.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Implement sustainable agricultural practice across grazing and horticultural landscapes.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Implement management and education programs like Landholder Guides that cover weeds, pests and fire, both fire preparedness and use of fire for ecological and environmental management.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Nerang catchment

Northern

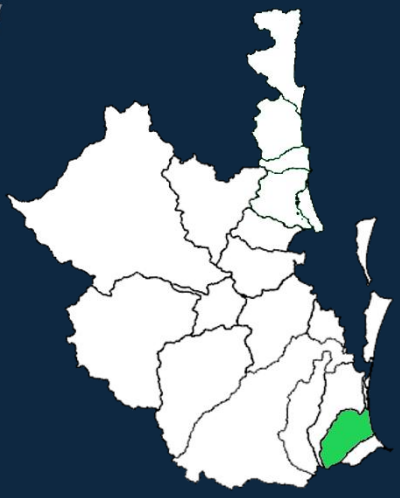
Western

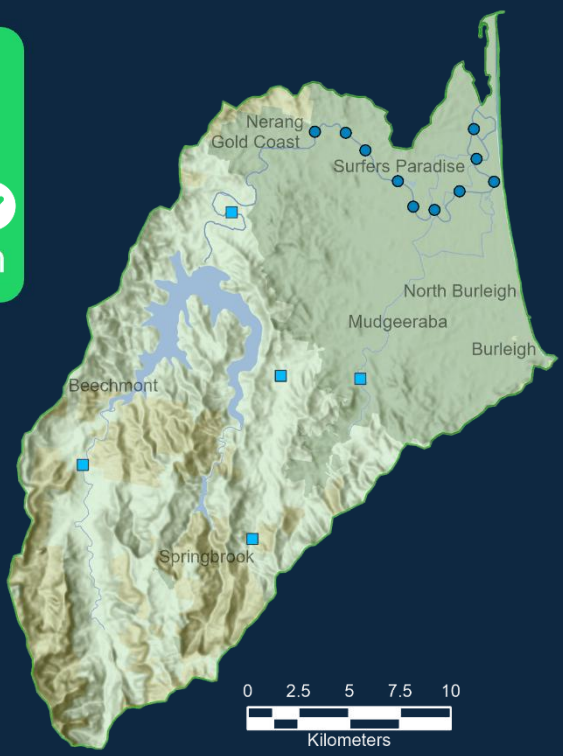
Central

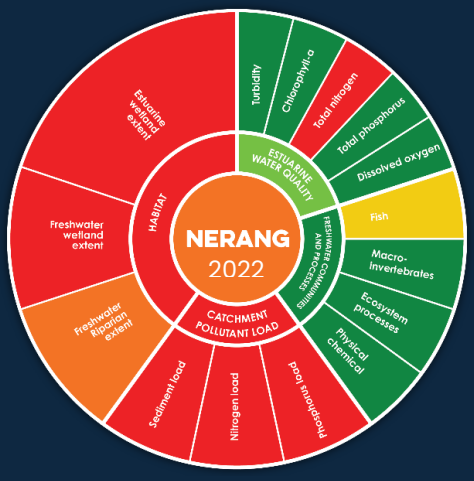
Southern

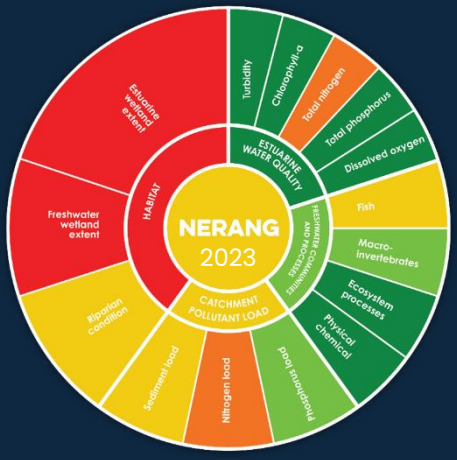
- Logan
- Albert
- Pimpama-Coomera
- Nerang
- Tallebudgera-Currumbin

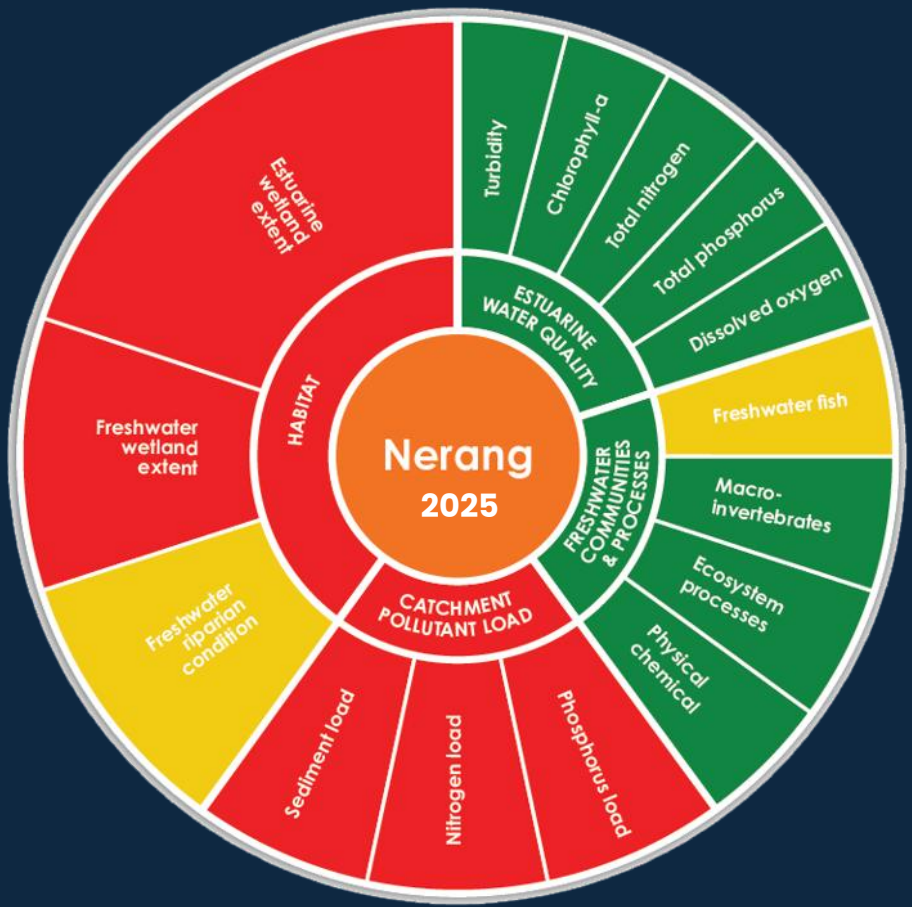
Bay











Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

27.1 Nerang catchment: Environmental condition: poor

Poor

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health improved significantly from very good to excellent. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from very good to excellent condition. Ecosystem processes and water quality remained in excellent condition. Freshwater fish remained in fair condition.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from moderate to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 207.1 kg/ha in 2023 to 3734.1 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (16.2 kg/ha) and phosphorus (6.1 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality remained in excellent condition. All estuarine water quality indicators are in excellent condition.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains very poor (4% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary remains very poor, with 7% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

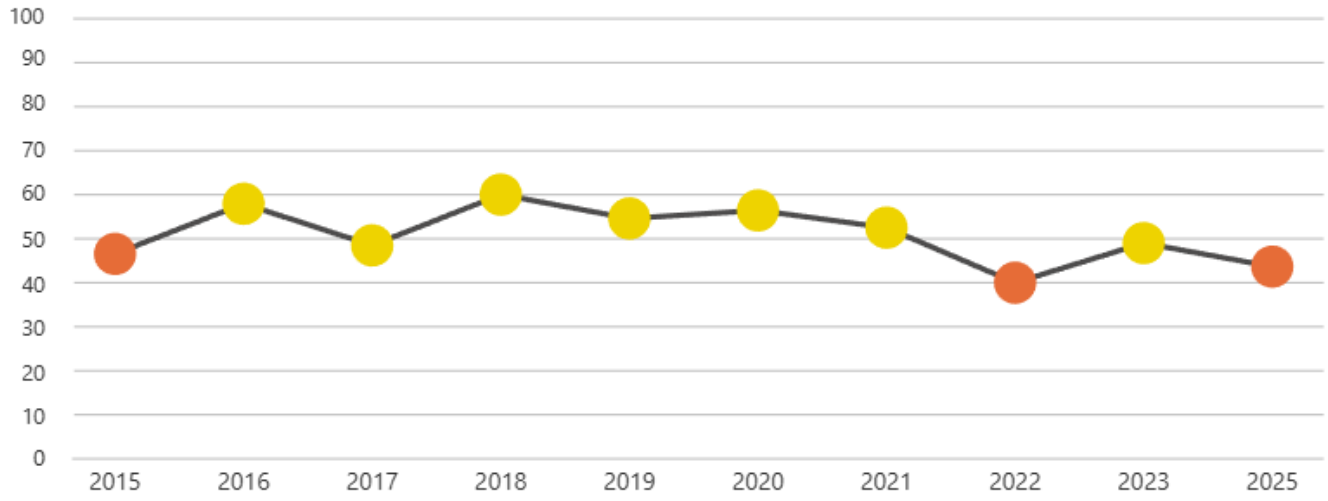
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is very good with >80% woody cover in 66% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very good. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing continues. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 48 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Nerang estuary is in very good condition. Factors influencing condition include the presence of seagrass at the mouth, diverse habitats and high connectivity to the Broadwater.

Over time



27.2 Nerang catchment: Social and economic benefits: extremely high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Nerang catchment reported extremely high usability (83%) and extremely high accessibility (85%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (84%) which is a slight improvement from (81%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Nerang catchment reported extremely high (86%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Nerang catchment reported extremely high (88%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Nerang catchment reported extremely high (83%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

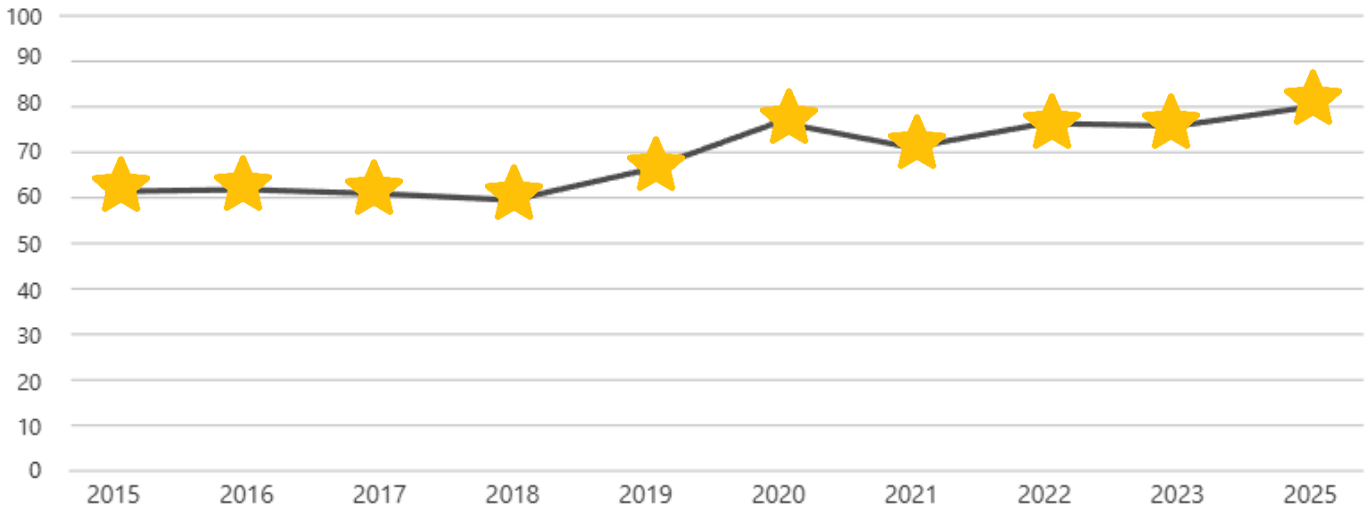
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $1,485/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (23% of value), boating or sailing (16% of value) and recreational fishing (20% of value).

Drinking water

The catchment supplied over 74766ML of drinking water to residents in 2024-2025. Very low levels of sludge relative to other drinking water catchments were removed from the local water treatment plant.

Over time



27.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Nerang catchment.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment running off development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Implement management and education programs like Landholder Guides that cover weeds, pests and fire, both fire preparedness and use of fire for ecological and environmental management.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment

Northern

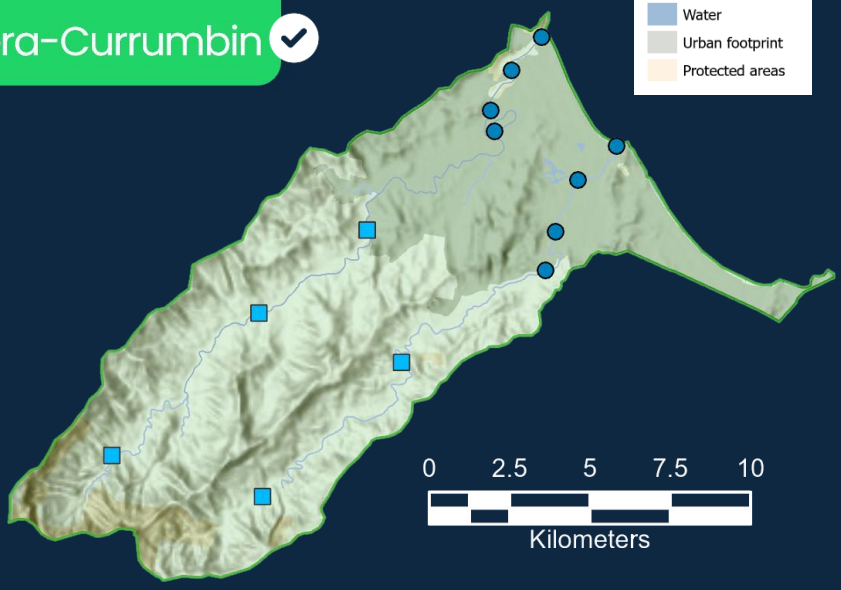
Western

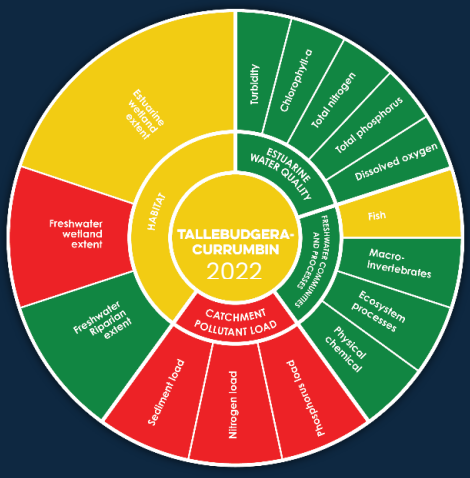
Central

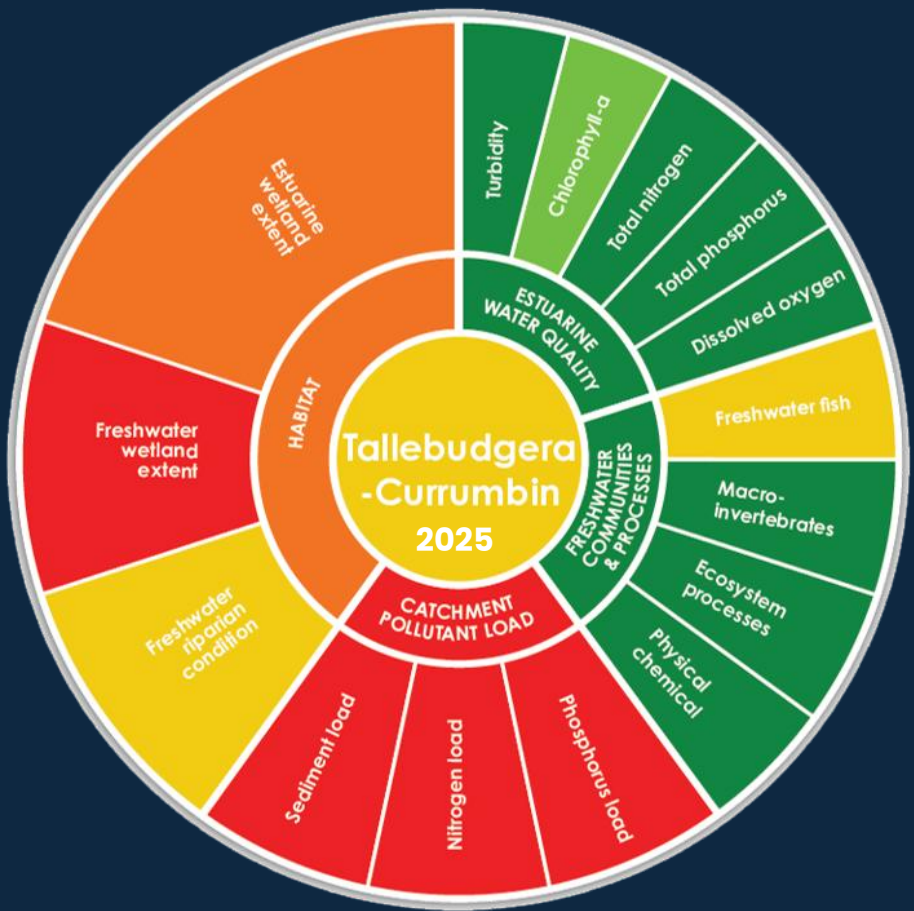
Southern

Bay

- Logan
- Albert
- Pimpama-Coomera
- Nerang
- Tallebudgera-Currumbin







Excellent | Very good | Fair | Poor | Very poor

28.1 Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchments: Environmental condition: fair

Fair

Freshwater stream health

Freshwater health remained in excellent condition. Macroinvertebrates (bugs) improved from very good to excellent condition. Ecosystem processes and water quality remained in excellent condition. Freshwater fish declined significantly from very good to fair.

Catchment pollutant loads

Pollutant loads increased significantly from high to very high, with sediment (mud) loads increasing from 262.8 kg/ha in 2023 to 6051.2 kg/ha in 2025. Run-off also delivered very high loads of nitrogen (23.8 kg/ha) and phosphorus (9.5 kg/ha) to waterways.

Estuarine water quality

Estuarine water quality in the estuaries remained in excellent condition. Algae (phytoplankton) increased, shifting from excellent to very good condition. Turbidity, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients (total nitrogen and phosphorus) remained in excellent condition.

Wetland extent

Wetland extent remains very poor (6% remaining) in the freshwater reaches of the catchment. The extent of wetland habitat in the estuary is poor, with 50% of mangroves and saltmarshes remaining in the catchment.

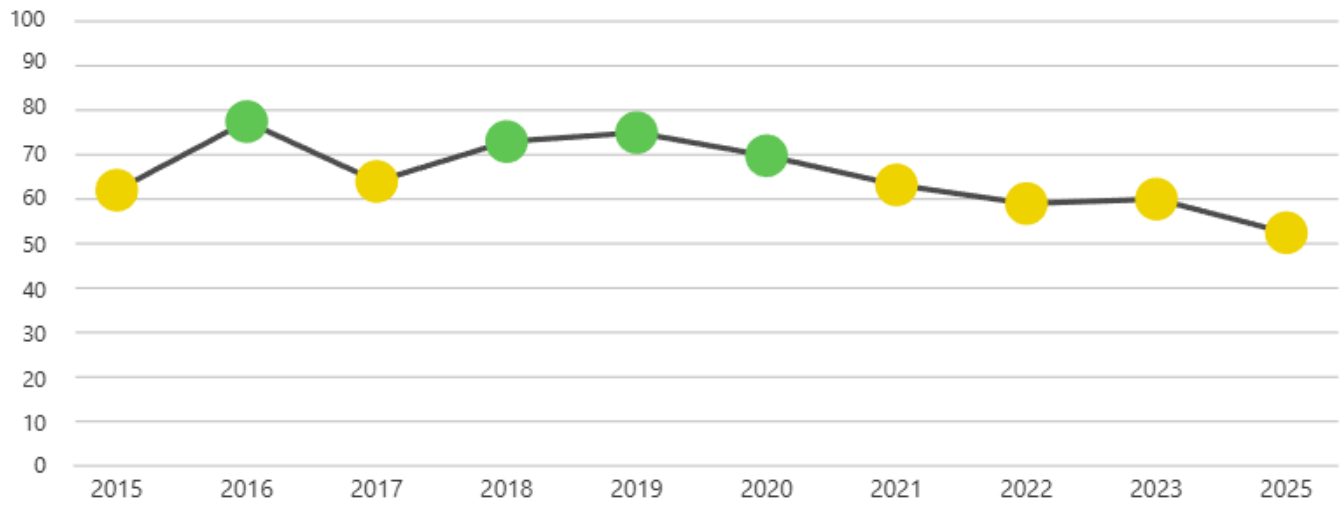
Riparian extent

Riparian habitats in freshwater reaches are in fair condition in 2025. Woody vegetation cover is fair with >80% woody cover in 53% of sub-catchments. Riparian bio condition is very good. There has been minimal woody vegetation re-growth and remnant riparian vegetation clearing has been continued. Between 2018 and 2023 riparian woody vegetation cover reduced by 11 hectares.

Estuarine fish

The estuarine fish community of the Tallebudgera estuary is in excellent condition. Factors influencing condition include the presence of seagrass and oysters, diverse habitats, high connectivity and excellent water quality,

Over time



28.2 Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchments: Social and economic benefits: extremely high

Accessibility and useability

Respondents in the Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment reported extremely high usability (95%) and extremely high accessibility (98%) to their local waterways. The overall rating is therefore extremely high (97%) which is a slight improvement from (90%) in 2023.

Satisfaction with experience

Respondents in the Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment reported extremely high (93%) satisfaction with their local waterways.

Connection with waterways

Respondents in the Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment reported extremely high (93%) connection with their local waterways.

Personal benefits

Respondents in the Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment reported extremely high (95%) social values from interacting with their local waterways.

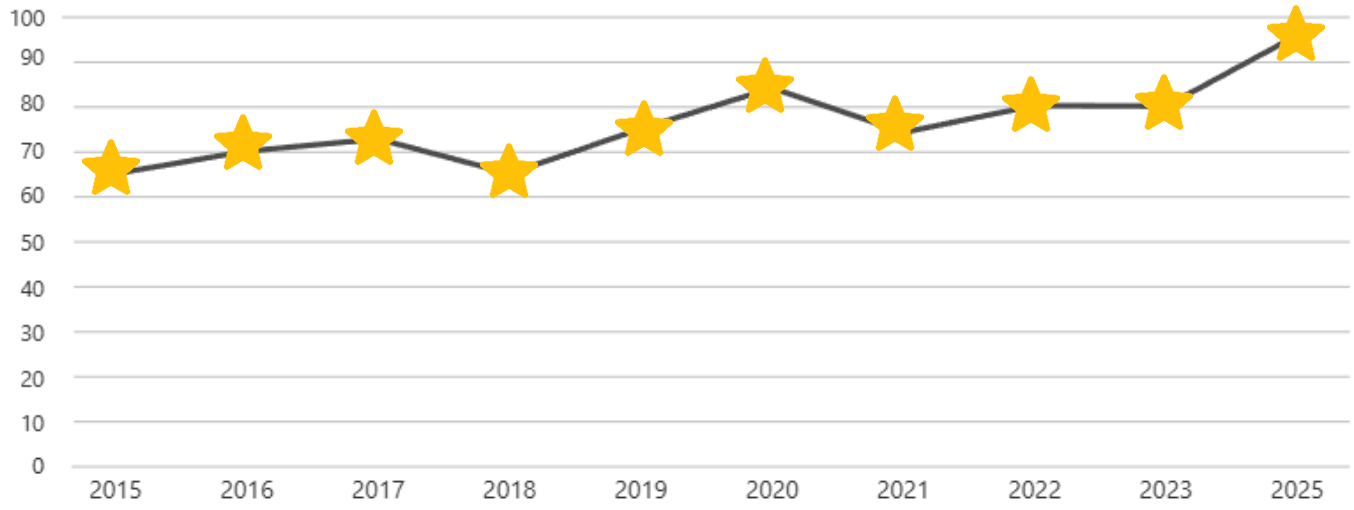
Recreational benefits

The waterway recreational value per person was $3,024/year. The activities that made up this value include picnics and BBQs (28% of value), swimming (21% of value) and recreational fishing (20% of value).

Drinking water

The Tallebudgera-Currumbin catchment does not receive a drinking water score as the catchment does not have a drinking water dam within its boundary.

Over time



28.3 Ways to improve waterway health and benefits

- Enhance the connection communities have to their local waterways through awareness raising, education, and increasing the opportunities for cultural and social activities.
- Support integrated catchment management approaches that include collaborative governance that aims to maintain and enhance the ecosystem service and intrinsic values of the Tallebudgera & Currumbin catchments.
- Protect and enhance wetland and floodplain ecosystems to support biodiversity and enhance important ecosystem services, including sediment and nutrient retention, nutrient cycling, and climate regulation.
- Actively conserve and enhance riparian vegetation condition to enhance key ecosystem service values, including water quality regulation, flood resilience, habitat provision and climate regulation.
- Maintain and enhance freshwater habitat connectivity through effective planning and waterway rehabilitation, including the targeted removal of waterway barriers.
- Reduce sediment runoff from development and construction sites, through capacity building, training and compliance activities.
- Increase erosion and sediment controls and compliance for new development, construction sites and private lands to reduce runoff when it rains.
- Implement Water Sensitive Urban Design in urban areas and new urban areas to maintain water quality, reduce stormwater run-off and flooding and enhance the liveability and biodiversity of urban areas.
- Continue to strategically manage releases from all point sources through existing regulatory oversight, monitoring and controls, ensuring management keeps pace with projected population growth.
- Support landholders (large and small properties) to improve local riparian management and restoration through education, collaboration, and financial incentives.
- Support residents to increase their water literacy and undertake actions in their home to conserve and improve local waterway health, including reducing chemical and fertiliser use, covering exposed soil and managing waste.
- Implement management and education programs like Landholder Guides that cover weeds, pests and fire, both fire preparedness and use of fire for ecological and environmental management.
- Support consistent investment in local community groups to deliver conservation initiatives to improve catchment and waterway health.

29 Appendix 1: Summary of Environmental Condition Grades and Waterway Benefit Rating scores from 2015 to 2025

Catchment/Bay zone	Environmental Condition Grade										Waterway Benefit Rating									
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025
Noosa	A-	A-	A-	A-	A-	A-	A-	B	Very good	Very good	4.5	4	4.5	4.5	5	4.5	5	5	4	4.5
Maroochy	C+	B	B-	B-	B-	C+	C+	C+	Fair	Fair	4	4	4	3.5	4	4.5	4	4	4	4
Mooloolah	C+	B	B-	C+	C+	C	C+	C	Fair	Fair	4	4.5	4	3.5	4	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.5	4
Pumicestone	B-	B+	A-	B+	A-	A-	B+	B-	Very good	Very good	4.5	4.5	4	4	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Caboolture	C+	B	B	B+	B+	B+	B	C	Fair	Fair	3.5	3	3	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4
Pine	C	B-	B-	B-	B	B	C+	D+	Very good	Fair	3	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	4	3.5	4	4
Lower Brisbane	C-	C-	D+	D+	C-	D+	D+	F	Poor	Poor	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	3	3	3	3.5	3.5	4
Redland	C+	C+	C+	C	C+	C+	C+	D+	Fair	Fair	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	3	3	3.5	3.5
Mid Brisbane	D	D+	B-	C-	C+	C	C+	F	Very good	Poor	2.5	3	3	3	3.5	2.5	3.5	4	3.5	3
Upper Brisbane	D	D	D	D	D	D	F	/	Poor	Poor	3.5	3	3	2.5	3	2.5	3.5	4	3.5	3
Stanley	B	B	B-	B	B-	B	B+	C	Fair	Very good	2.5	3	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	3.5	3.5
Lockyer	D+	D+	D+	D+	D	D-	D-	F	Poor	Poor	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	2.5	3	3.5	3	3
Bremer	D-	D+	D-	D+	D+	D	D	F	Poor	Poor	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	3	3.5	3.5
Logan	D	C-	C-	C-	C	C+	C+	D-	Fair	Poor	2.5	2.5	2	2	2.5	2.5	2.5	3	3.5	3.5
Albert	C-	C+	C	C	B-	B-	B	C-	Very good	Fair	3	3.5	3	2.5	3.5	3.5	4	3.5	4	4
Pimpama-Coomera	C+	B	B-	B	B-	B	B	C+	Very good	Fair	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4	4	4	4	3.5	4.5
Nerang	C-	C	C-	C+	C	C	C	D	Fair	Poor	4	4	4	4	4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5
Tallebudgera-Currumbin	C+	B	B-	B	B+	B	C+	C+	Fair	Fair	4	4	4.5	4	4.5	5	4.5	5	5	5
Western Bay	B	B	B	B+	A-	A-	A-	B+	Excellent	Excellent										
Central Bay	B+	B+	A-	A-	A-	A-	A	A-	Excellent	Excellent										
Eastern Bay	A	A-	A	A-	A	A	A	A-	Excellent	Very good										
Southern Bay	B+	B	B	B	B+	B+	B+	B-	Very good	Fair										
Broadwater	A-	B+	A-	A	A	B+	A	A-	Very good	Very good										
Moreton Bay	A-	A-	B+	A-	A-	A-	A-	B+	Very good	Very good										

Not applicable – social scores not measured in bay areas

Legend

A	Excellent
B	Very good
C	Fair
D	Poor
F	Very poor

Level 11, 240 Queen St, Brisbane QLD 4000
T. 07 3177 9100 | hlw.org.au | reportcard.hlw.org.au