



**Waterways Report Card Network
Workshop
20-22 MARCH 2017**

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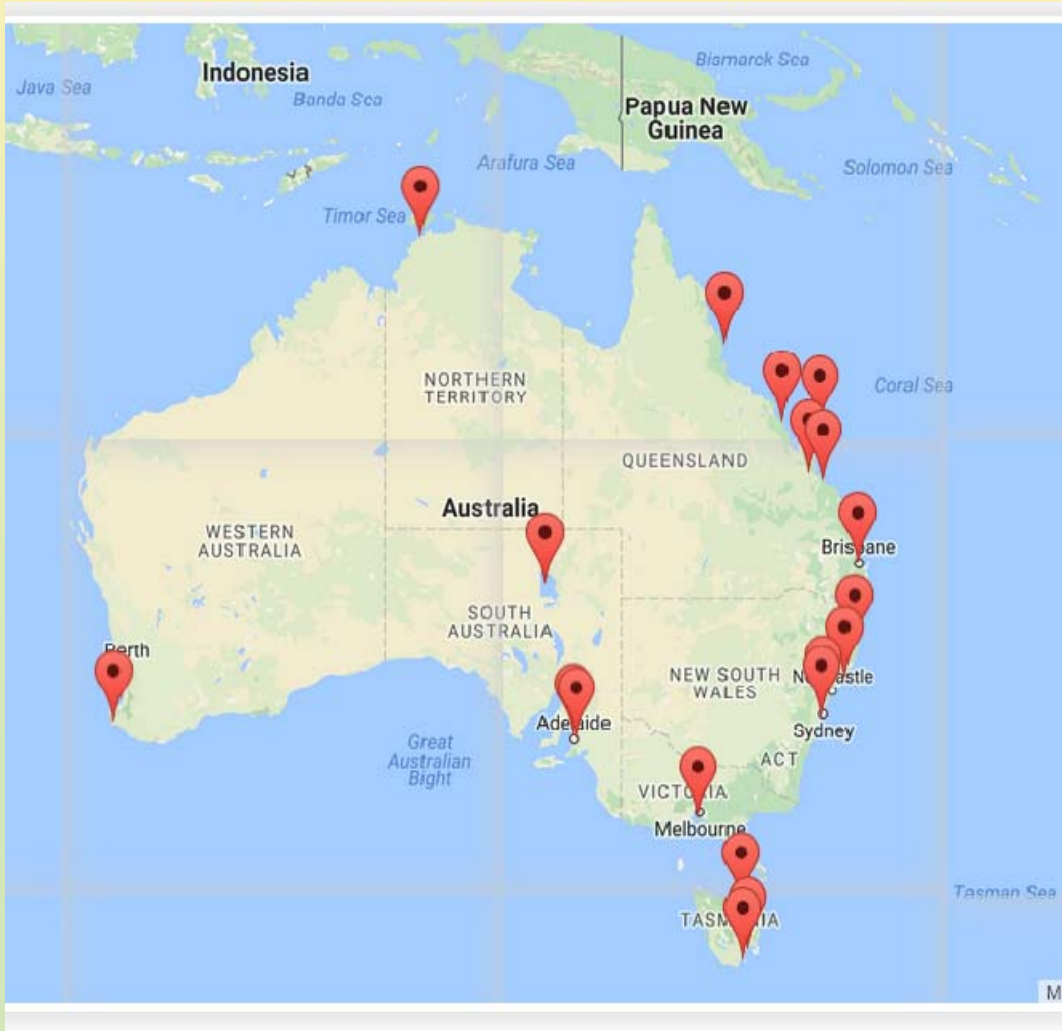
Marine Ecosystem Policy Advisors

Chair, Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership 2014-2017

Director, South East Queensland, Healthy Waterways Partnership 2002-2009



Where report cards are happening ...



➤ 19 around Australia

<http://riverhealth.org.au/national-report-card-network/>

➤ 11 developed by Uni of Maryland

<http://ian.umces.edu/ecocheck/report-cards/>

➤ Also developed in:

- UK and Europe
- China and PNG
- Arctic and Ocean Health (multi-national)

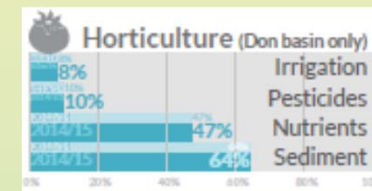
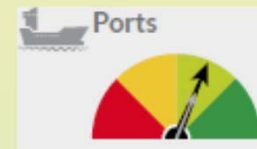
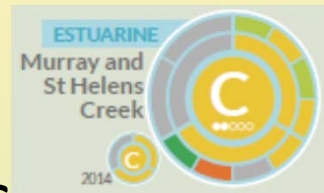
First report card in 2000 for SEQ marine.

Why a report card?

- If it is not measured, it cannot be managed.
- Familiar product for most people from their school days.
- One of the few tools to regularly communicate the condition and trend in condition of natural resource assets – also more recently social and economic information
- Very visual product – able to show layers of highly complex information in ‘at a glance’ format

What can they cover?

- Environmental assets
- Stewardship assessments
- Progress to management targets
- Social and heritage values
- Economic information relevant to region, industry or environmental asset



Benefits ...

- Distilling complex range of data into aggregated simple scores
- Focus on geographic region and so connect with communities
- 'Gateway document' – able to link back to additional information on organisation's website
- Providing observational data for complex environmental computer models and validating model outputs
- Contributing to larger scale assessments – GBR Outlook Report, State of Environment reporting

Challenges ...

- Communicating complex range of data – difficult not to ‘overcook’ the visuals
- Timeliness of the data being used – need to be reporting on the past 12 months
- Sufficient data, both spatially and temporally to reflect actual condition and trend
- Fine enough scale that is meaningful to landholders and decision-makers
- Linking condition data or other information to something people (especially non-scientists) connect with
- Sufficient resources and long term commitment

Future ...

- Web based products – real time results
- Environmental Accounts - a robust and on-going national program to measure the condition of Australia's environmental assets.
 - ✓ *Accounting for Nature* builds biophysical accounts using a common unit of measure (an *eCond*) that describes the condition of any environmental asset at any scale.
 - ✓ Provides an accounting framework to link environmental management and economic decisions.
 - ✓ Ecosystem services could be quantified on a regular basis and reported on in regional report cards alongside condition data.

www.wentworthgroup.org