



How have you felt?

- Pleased to have been invited, to be able to learn from each other
- Inspired and motivated to keep improving our report card
- That the workshop has been really valuable
- Like there are some ideas from other places that can be actioned and lead to improvements

What surprised you?

- The variety of approaches to RC development
- Issues and challenges we face are universal
- That we make assumptions about what we 'think' communities need to know and we don't measure the success of our communications
- That some initiatives don't have clear objectives and targets

What surprised you?

- That modelling is being used to generate report card scores
- That report cards can generate a 50% change in resourcing or behaviours
- Extent of report cards across Australia

Insights and key lessons

- Lucky to have very simple governance arrangements
- Cultural sensitivities to information management in Aboriginal communities => collaborative, co created (Gawler Ranges)

Insights and key lessons

- The value of the network to help solve common problems
- We shouldn't be combining stressors and condition targets
- Monitoring limited indicators doesn't necessarily tell the whole story, presenting a range may make the scores more palatable for politicians

Network next steps

- Should we continue as a practitioner network?
- What do you think the network should look like?
 - Website
 - Tele conferences
 - Annual workshop
 - 'issues' working groups

Beyond Report Cards

Community engagement:

- How do you generate interest in report card results?
- How are report cards used for community engagement after their release?
- What do your report card materials look like?

Beyond Report Cards

You are invited to the Wallis, Myall & Karuah Waterway 2016 & Catchment REPORT CARD RELEASE

Come and join us for a relaxed and informative evening, whilst enjoying delicious local food.

Find out how intensive farming and the environment can happily co-exist and hear about the health of your local waterways.

Meet Lynne Strong, multi-award winning farmer from Clover Hill Dairies, whose ethos is:

“Our Business is a Partnership between Our Cows, Our Landscape and Our Community”

WHEN: 6pm, Friday 18th of November 2016

WHERE: Stroud Country Club (Golf course),
The Bucketts Way

RSVP CLOSES: 11th November

[Click here for more info & to RSVP](#)

or call 6591 7320

[MidCoastCouncil](#)

FREE
EVENT

Waterway and report card results tell a story on the health of waterways. As we move from upper catchments through mid catchments to estuaries, water quality declines due to increased stressors associated with intensified land use.

What does this mean?

More work needs to be done to improve land use practices and reduce stressors. This will improve catchment and waterway health for the whole community to benefit.

Full waterway and catchment report card results are available at www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au

MidCoastCouncil

MidCoast Council water quality improvement projects are made possible by the Environmental Special Rate

How Healthy are our Waterways?

Upper Catchments

- healthy
- low nutrient and sediment inputs
- good river bank conditions
- low algae levels
- water bug populations healthy

Mid Catchments

- poorer health compared to upper catchment
- increased nutrients and sediment
- declining river bank conditions
- higher algae levels
- water bug populations suffering

Estuaries

- impacted from both upstream waters and land use directly surrounding them
- can be influenced by connection to the ocean

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Beyond Report Cards

Decision making and on ground action:

- How has your initiative informed management decisions?
- How do you use report cards to achieve on ground action?

Enhance farm profitability, cattle health and waterway health

What can I do?

Keeping stock out of waterways, wetlands and boggy areas is a great first step you can take to improve waterway health and stock drinking water quality.

- Provide off stream water to livestock
- Fence and revegetate along waterways and wetlands
- Establish in paddock shade and shelter for stock to minimise stock camps along waterways.

Did you know?

- Studies show that clean water increases weight gain of cattle
- Stock can lose up to 1g/kg/day when drinking muddy water
- Even without planting, fencing off riparian zones can reduce faecal coliforms by 35% in streams. Vegetated riparian buffers of 4 metres can achieve up to a 95% reduction in faecal bacteria inputs
- Wetlands are like the kidneys of the landscape; they clean our water, slow the flow of water and reduce flood peaks.
- On a 27th day, unsheltered dairy cows have up to 26% less milk production than shaded stock.

Planned grazing reaps rewards for productivity and water quality

Planning the movement of livestock involves assessing the amount of pasture and allowing a sufficient rest period between grazing events. It improves animal production and soil structure.

- Aim for 100% groundcover, 100% of the time
- Allow sufficient time between grazing events for the plants to regenerate leaf area and root biomass
- Leave a residual pasture height of at least 5cm at the end of a grazing period to optimise regrowth and maintain plant root systems
- Design paddocks to suit the topography of the land

A farm map or aerial photo is a good starting point to assist with the management of your property. This can then be used to guide management including grazing rotations, fertiliser regime, and stock watering systems.

How did we go?



Raise awareness of the various initiatives

Exchange knowledge and ideas

Learn from each other

Explore opportunities for collaboration to deliver organisational goals and operational efficiencies



Where to from here?

- Save the Date, Tele Conference

Wednesday 14th June 2017
1pm (eastern standard time)



