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Water quality monitoring highlighted for National Water Week

The Fitzroy Basin is made up of almost 20,000kms of waterways and is the largest catchment draining to the east coast of Australia, so ongoing monitoring of the systems collective health is important.

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Executive Officer, Dr. Leigh Stitz said assessing water quality to develop a report card that is easy for everyone to access and understand is at the heart of the partnership's work.

"Since 2012 we have produced eight annual report cards on the health of the Fitzroy Basin's waterways and National Water Week is a great time to highlight these and the significant work we do," Dr. Stitz said.

"These waterway health report cards only exist because government, industry, research organisations and the community are working together to provide independent reporting on ecosystem health.

"Our partners contribute data and funding, which enables us to work with our Independent Science Panel to produce an open and transparent, annual assessment on waterway health.

"Through their involvement in the partnership, our partners are showing their commitment to sustainable use of waterways and providing a more complete picture of river health for the Fitzroy Basin," she said.

Overall the Fitzroy Basin received a C grade in the most recent report card, indicating that waterways were in a fair condition. Grades for the 11 catchments within the Fitzroy Basin and the estuary are available at www.riverhealth.org.au/report_card/ehi/

Annual assessments on the suitability of water for agricultural use, both crop and stock are also produced as well as treated water for human use in Rockhampton and Central Highlands Regional Council townships, with all townships awarded A grades.

"Fitzroy Partnership for River Health also provides a community portal where schools, community groups or members of the community can enter their own water monitoring results. We have over 200 sample results that have been entered, mostly from the Rockhampton area," Dr. Stitz said.

"There is so much you can learn about your local waterways on our website, I encourage everyone to get online at www.riverhealth.org.au and have a look during National Water Week," Dr. Stitz said.

ENDS - Media enquiries to: Samantha Hall on 4999 2835 or via email samantha.hall@riverhealth.org.au

Major partners: Queensland Government, BMA/BHP, Peabody, Anglo American, Glencore, Fitzroy Basin Association, Australian Government

Partners: Santos, Origin, Jellinbah Resources, Curragh Coronado, Rockhampton Regional Council, Ensham Resources/Idemitsu, New Hope Group, CQUniversity, Cotton Australia, CQG Consulting, Queensland Resources Council, Stanmore IP Coal, Kestrel Coal Resources, sunwater, Middlemount South and Fitzroy Australia Resources