



# Fitzroy Basin Report Card 2018-19



# Fitzroy Basin 2018-19



....○↑

## What does the Report Card measure?



Physical/  
chemical



Nutrients



Toxicants



Ecology  
freshwater



Ecology  
estuarine

## Grading

**(A)** 100% Excellent

**(B)** 67-99% Good

**(C)** 33-67% Fair

**(D)** 0-33% Poor

**(E)** 0% Fail

**(N)** No data

## Confidence

..... Very high

..... High

..... Moderate

..... Low

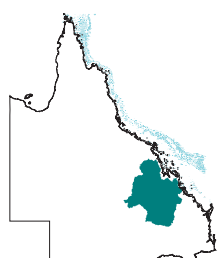
..... Very low

## Trend

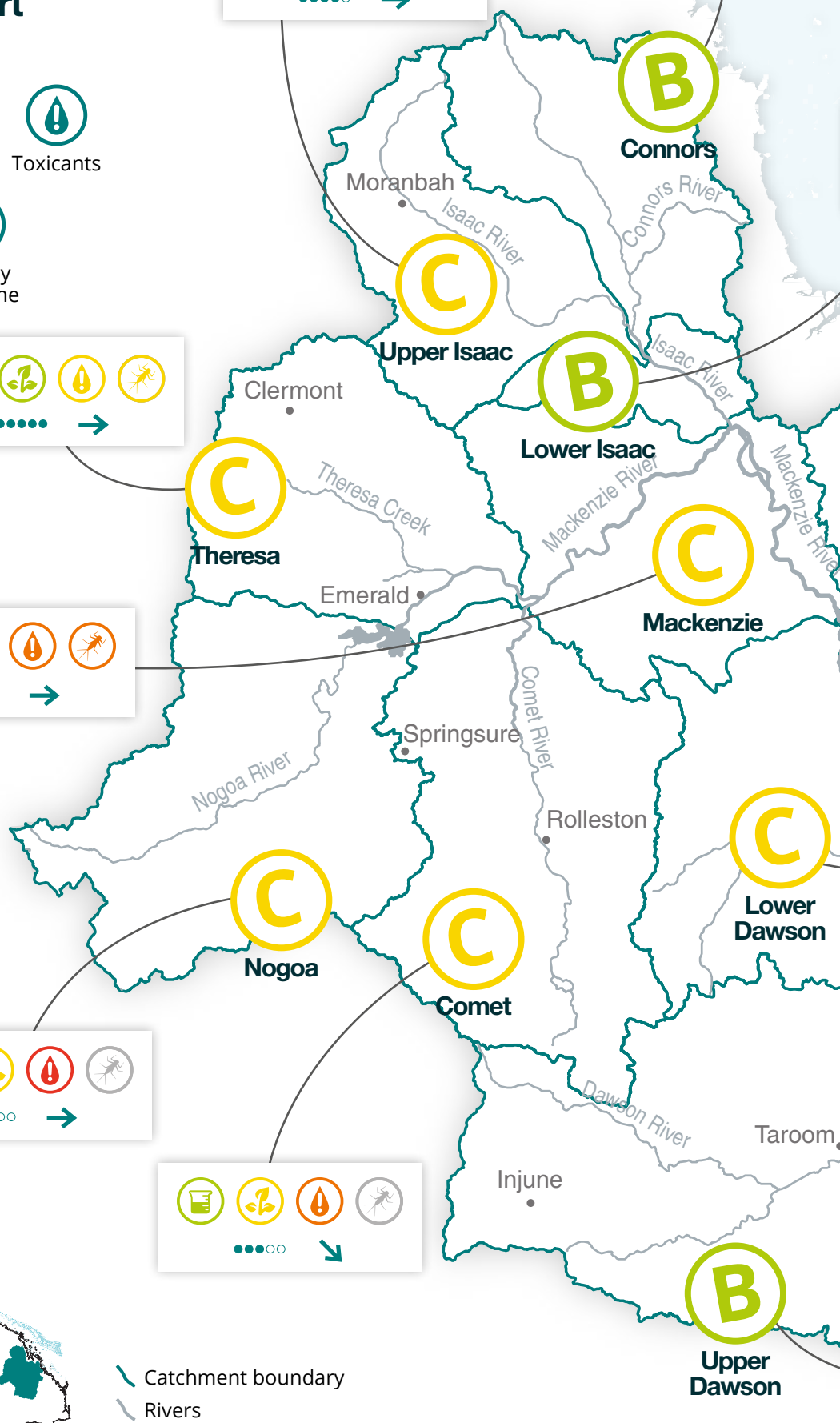
↑ Improved

→ Maintained

↓ Declined



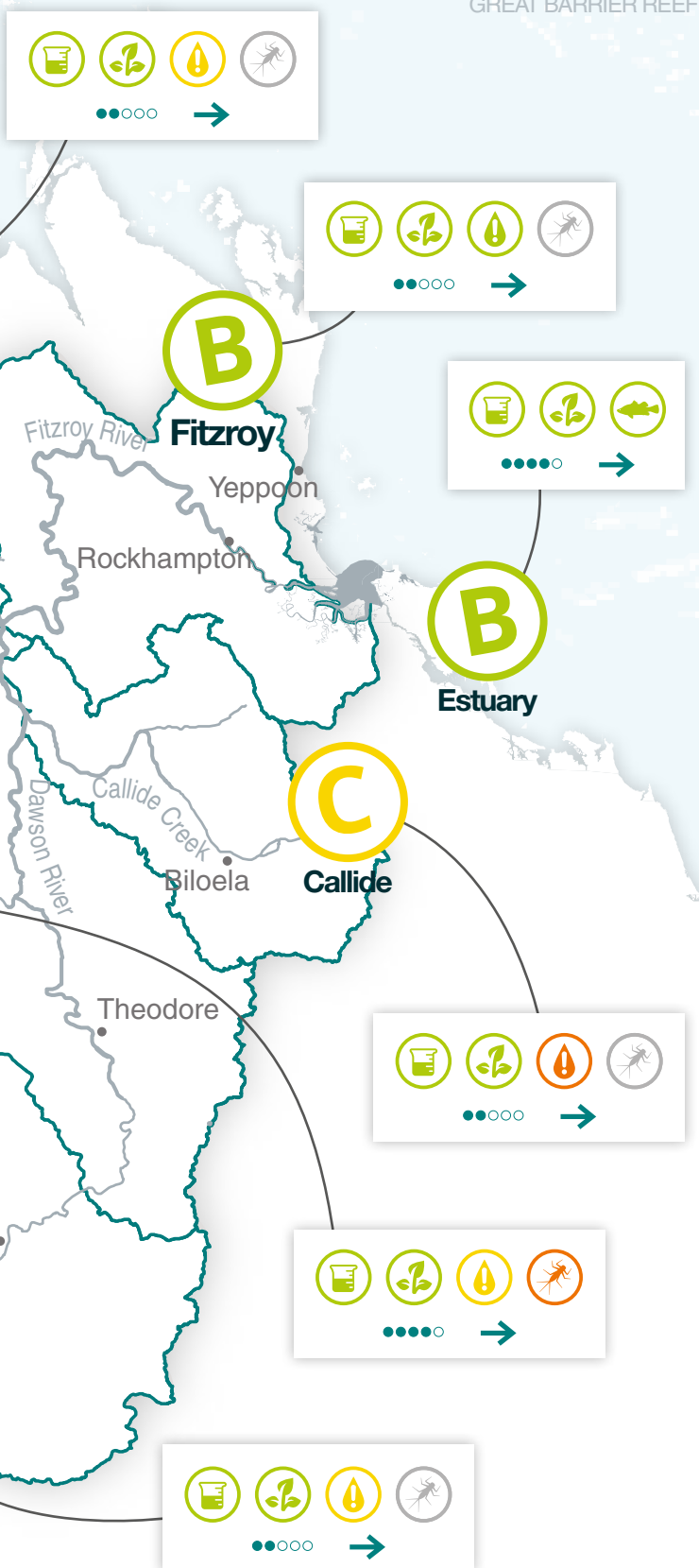
— Catchment boundary  
— Rivers





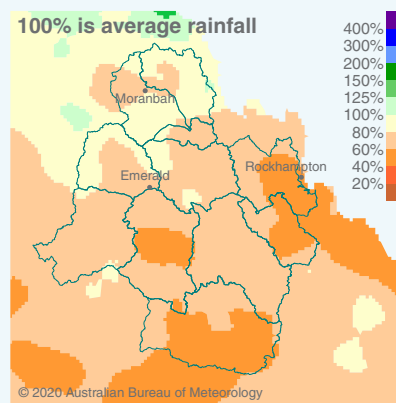
## Ecosystem Health Index results

In 2018-2019, the Fitzroy Basin received an overall B grade for aquatic ecosystem health, a slight improvement from the previous year. Of the 11 catchments, Theresa, Nogoia, Upper and Lower Dawson, Callide and particularly the Connors improved in overall river health. The estuary zone scored slightly higher but maintained a B grade.



## Rainfall map

As drought conditions continue, annual rainfall for the 2018/19 period was below average. Less run-off and flushing during low rainfall conditions generally result in the report card grades being maintained or in some cases, slightly improved. Ground cover during these times is likely to decline. Following rainfall, soil and nutrients from the exposed catchments will enter our waterways, resulting in a decrease in report card grades. It is important to protect our catchments and waterways from these events by maintaining groundcover.



## Find out more online

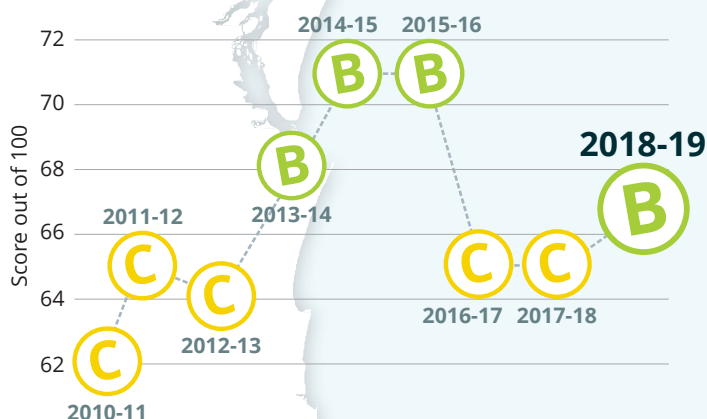


- Detailed catchment results
- Drinking water quality
- Stock use
- Cropping use
- Land use

[riverhealth.org.au](http://riverhealth.org.au)

## Long-term trends

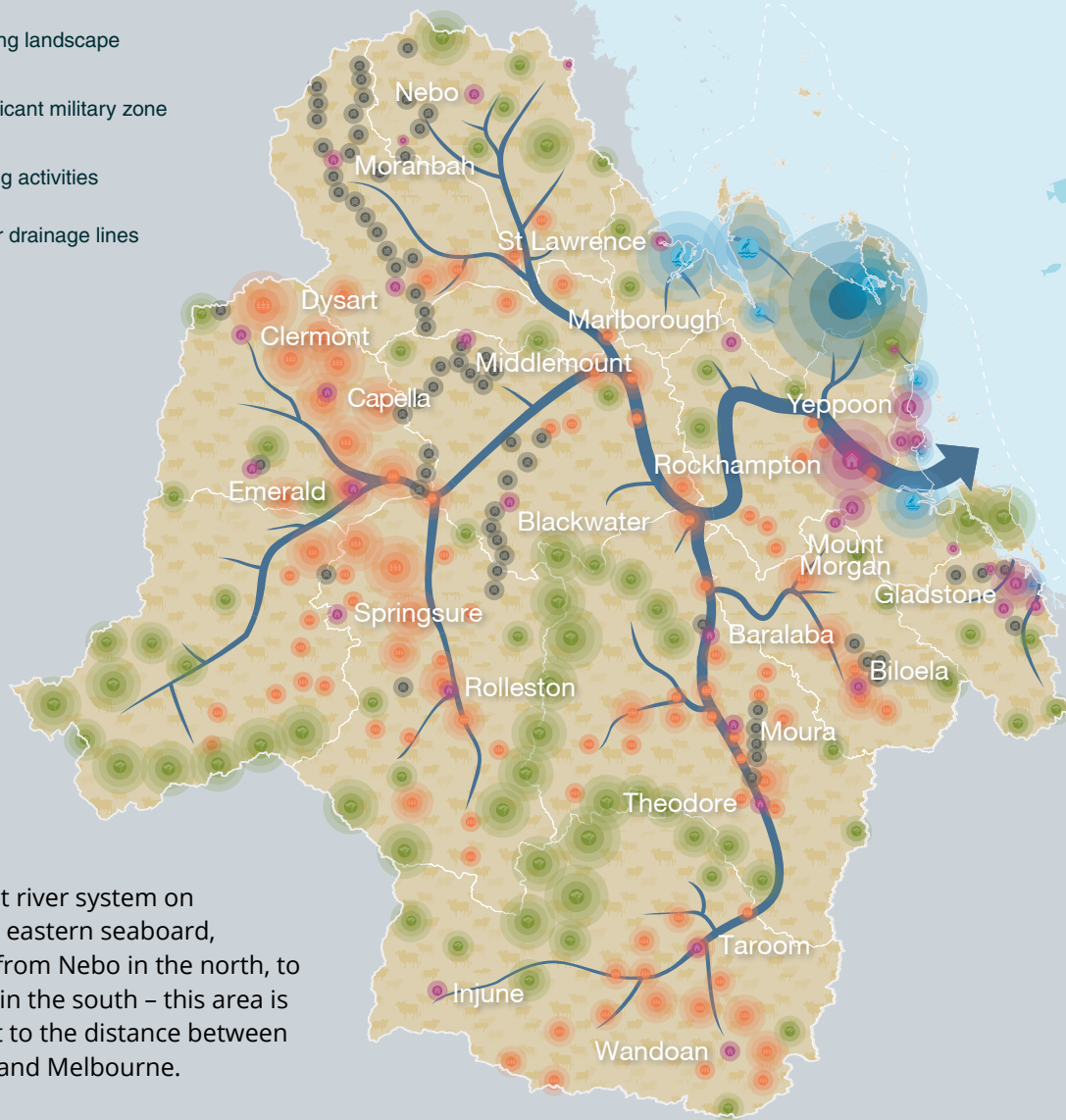
Over time, trends in data offer a better understanding of the resilience of waterways and build a more comprehensive picture of the pressures in each catchment. This graph presents the overall Fitzroy Basin grade over time and indicates that overall aquatic health condition has remained stable since 2010-11. Each time a Fitzroy Basin report card is compiled, knowledge of the long-term health of the basin is improved. Data comparisons and changes can be tracked for each of the 11 catchments and the estuary, at [riverhealth.org.au/report\\_card/ehi/trend](http://riverhealth.org.au/report_card/ehi/trend).



## Fitzroy Basin Region Land Use

The Fitzroy Natural Resource Management Region is Queensland's highest commodity region and is an economic powerhouse, contributing to livelihoods across the country. Explore the region's diverse land use on this map.

-  protected areas of native forests
-  significant wetland areas
-  townships, settlements & urban areas
-  intensive dryland & irrigated cropping
-  grazing landscape
-  significant military zone
-  mining activities
-  major drainage lines



The largest river system on Australia's eastern seaboard, spanning from Nebo in the north, to Wandoan in the south – this area is equivalent to the distance between Canberra and Melbourne.



**3.2 million**  
head of cattle



1/3 of Queensland's wetlands –  
that's approximately  
**8,534 wetlands**



**80%**  
of land in the region is managed  
by farmers and graziers



**125**  
Great Barrier Reef islands



**6075**  
native plants and animal species  
thrive in the Fitzroy Region



**74%**  
of Queensland's active coal mines



**263**  
rare or threatened species are  
found in the Fitzroy Region



**3rd largest**  
coal exporting terminal in the world,  
the port of Gladstone





## Trusted information on river health in the Fitzroy Basin

We are amassing a comprehensive dataset and provide trusted information on waterway health in the Fitzroy Basin. It is being used by all sectors of society including setting of water quality guidelines by government, supporting projects for industry partners and for local material in science assignments.

**Dr Eva Abal**

*Independent Science Panel Chair*

## Community informed through annual report cards

Our role is to facilitate improved water quality monitoring, collate and assess data, and publicly report on waterway health for the Fitzroy Basin – the largest catchment draining to the east coast of Australia. Data and results are assessed and verified by an Independent Science Panel to ensure accuracy and use of the best available science.



**Daniel Yates**

*Fitzroy Partnership for River Health Chair*



**fitzroy**  
partnership  
for river health

## Fast Facts



B grade achieved



Established in 2012



9x Report Cards released



24 organisations working together



Independent Science Panel scrutinises results



## About Fitzroy Partnership for River Health

Fitzroy Partnership for River Health was launched in 2012 and has now delivered nine report cards on the health of Fitzroy Basin waterways. We are a formal collaboration between government, industry, research organisations and community, who all have an interest in the health of waterways across the Fitzroy Basin.

## Join us

Does your organisation want to be part of our successful partnership? There are great partner benefits including community recognition and promotion, networking opportunities, access to reliable information and an Independent Science Panel. Join us and be part of regional Queensland's first report card network.

## Community monitoring

Is your school or community group interested in monitoring the health of a local creek? Use your school or science club equipment, or get in touch with us as we have monitoring kits available to borrow that are stocked with everything you will need to get involved. Your results can then be uploaded to our MyWater community portal which allows you to track the health of your creek over time. Support and training is also available.



Visit [riverhealth.org.au/community-monitoring](http://riverhealth.org.au/community-monitoring) for more information



Santos



BHP Mitsubishi Alliance

Peabody



GLENCORE



sunwater



## For more information: Fitzroy Partnership for River Health

[riverhealth.org.au](http://riverhealth.org.au)

[admin@riverhealth.org.au](mailto:admin@riverhealth.org.au)

[facebook.com/FitzroyPartnership4RiverHealth](https://facebook.com/FitzroyPartnership4RiverHealth)

Level 1, 80 East Street  
Rockhampton, QLD 4700

A number of report cards are produced in relation to the environmental condition of waterways entering the Great Barrier Reef, including this one, with different purposes and coverage. The Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Report Card, jointly produced by the Queensland and Australian Government, focuses on tracking towards Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan targets ([www.reefplan.qld.gov.au](http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au)).

Regional Partnerships such as this one, produce region specific report cards that provide an annual snapshot of ecosystem health and the water quality condition of local waterways. For more details see the Report Card Explainer in the Reef Report Cards section of our website or view the report cards for the other Reef regions from the same section.