

What is the Fitzroy Regional REMP?

Fitzroy Regional REMP stands for Fitzroy Regional Receiving Environment Monitoring Program (FRREMP). It is a new basin-wide water quality monitoring program which improves efficiency and presents opportunities to improve data quality and reporting in the Fitzroy Basin Report Card. The program is administered by Fitzroy Basin Association who have worked with the Queensland Government to ensure the program includes data collected in waterways that could be receiving waters for industry and other activities.

The program is a result of collaborations between a range of stakeholders including, existing FPRH partners, the Department of Science, CQUniversity and CQG Consulting along with the FPRH Independent Science Panel. The program has taken many years to develop and be approved by all stakeholders and sampling began in July 2021. After running the results through the FPRH processing database, FPRH was excited to see that many gaps in biological data were filled and the results improved our understanding of the Basin. The results of the latest Report (which also uses data from Gladstone Ports Corporation and Government Estuary monitoring data) can be found at: <https://riverhealth.org.au/report-cards/>

Why the new Monitoring Program?

Fitzroy Partnership collects data from a large range of sources. This purpose-made program adds to our sources and provides scientific rigour to the Ecosystem Health Index (EHI) Report Card data set. The new program provides:

- Greater consistency in monitoring and improved data quality through an integrated program.
- More accurate trend reporting.
- More meaningful data in relation to overall ecosystem health of the Basin.
- Improved spatial and temporal sampling.
- Reduction of knowledge gaps, particularly ecological data (including macroinvertebrates, fish and habitat).
- Opportunities to collaboratively review and refine monitoring for parameters of concern.
- Savings for FPRH members through cost sharing and reduction in duplication of monitoring efforts.
- Coordinated review of Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) with DES and Participants.
- One comprehensive REMP report focused on catchment results.
- Reduced time lag between data collection and production of the annual Fitzroy Basin Report Card, increasing the real time relevance of Report Card results.

What is being monitored?

Monitoring sites are located across the 11 sub-basins of the Fitzroy Basin. There is a minimum of three monitoring points in each catchment making up a total of around 48 sites. Sampling at each site is completed up to six times a year.

A variety of water quality parameters and data indicators are measured and grouped into Water Quality, Sediment Quality and Ecology. For more information about what data is used to collate the EHI Report visit <https://riverhealth.org.au/resources/grading-explained/>

Figure 1: Approximate location of sampling sites for the Regional Monitoring Program

