

Rapid Creek

Summary

The fresh and marine waters of Rapid Creek were generally in excellent condition, although bacteria levels at Rapid Creek Beach occasionally exceeded recreational water quality guideline levels. Water quality monitoring data were provided from the Darwin International Airport for a number of sites along the freshwater reaches of Rapid Creek in addition to data collected by NRETAS for this Report Card.



Nature of system

- Rapid Creek is the largest freshwater system within the Darwin city area
- A large proportion of the catchment has been cleared and urbanised
- Stream corridor and riparian area remains relatively intact
- Bacteria levels on Rapid Creek Beach are occasionally above water quality guideline levels














Potential sources of pollution

- High sediment, nutrient and other human-related pollutant loads from urban areas, primarily during the wet season



Mouth of Rapid Creek. Rapid Creek is known as Gurambai to Larrakia people

Rapid Creek catchment freshwater and marine water quality

Indicator and units	Water quality objective freshwater	Compliance freshwater	Water quality objective marine	Compliance upper marine
 Electrical conductivity (µS/cm)	<200	35.6 ✓	NA	
 Turbidity (NTU)	<20	1.49 ✓	NA	
 pH	6.0–7.5	5.7–6.4 ✓	6–8.5	7.6–8 ✓
 Dissolved oxygen (%)	50–100	57–63 ✓	80–100	*
 Total suspended solids (mg/L)	<5	1.5 ✓	<10	*
 Chlorophyll a (µg/L)	<2	0.17 ✓	<4	0.5 ✓
 NOx (µg N/L)	<8	40 ✓	<20	15.5 ✓
 Ammonia (µg N/L)	NA		<20	nd
 Total nitrogen (µg N/L)	<230	130 ✓	<300	250 ✓
 Total phosphorus (µg P/L)	<10	5 ✓	<30	20 ✓
 Filterable reactive phosphorus (µg P/L)	<5	3 ✓	<10	6 ✓
Number of samples		29		19
2011 rating				
<p>Note: Four sites included the data from sites at Kimmorley Bridge, Yankee Pools, Henry Wrigley Bridge and DW21. Data for Kimmorley Bridge, Yankee Pools, Henry Wrigley Bridge and Mitigation Weir were supplied by Darwin International Airport. Note¹: (nd). Limited or no data available Note²: (NA). Not applicable, no WQO developed * WQO currently under revision.</p>				