

Darwin-Palmerston and Estuary

Summary

Water quality at the Darwin-Palmerston upper estuary monitoring sites is in excellent condition. Water quality at the Myrmidon Creek estuary monitoring site is in poor condition. Many water quality indicators at the Myrmidon Creek estuary monitoring site do not comply with water quality objectives. The water-bug community at the biological monitoring sites is assessed as equivalent to reference at one site and significantly impaired at the second site.

Nature of system

- Long residence time and poor flushing in the tidal creeks
- Light limitation during the wet season
- A large proportion of the catchment has been urbanised

Sources of pollution

- Several sewage treatment plants with wastewater discharge from Darwin at Blesers Creek and Palmerston at Myrmidon Creek
- High sediment, nutrient, industrial and other human-related pollutant loads during the wet season



Mitchell Creek is the natural drainage system for the Palmerston escarpment, and residential suburbs in the east of the City of Palmerston.

It is the only creek system in Palmerston with residential development, such as the proposed suburb of Johnston.

The Northern Territory Government has monitored water quality and water-bugs in Mitchell Creek since 2001.

Photo: Gisela Lamche

