

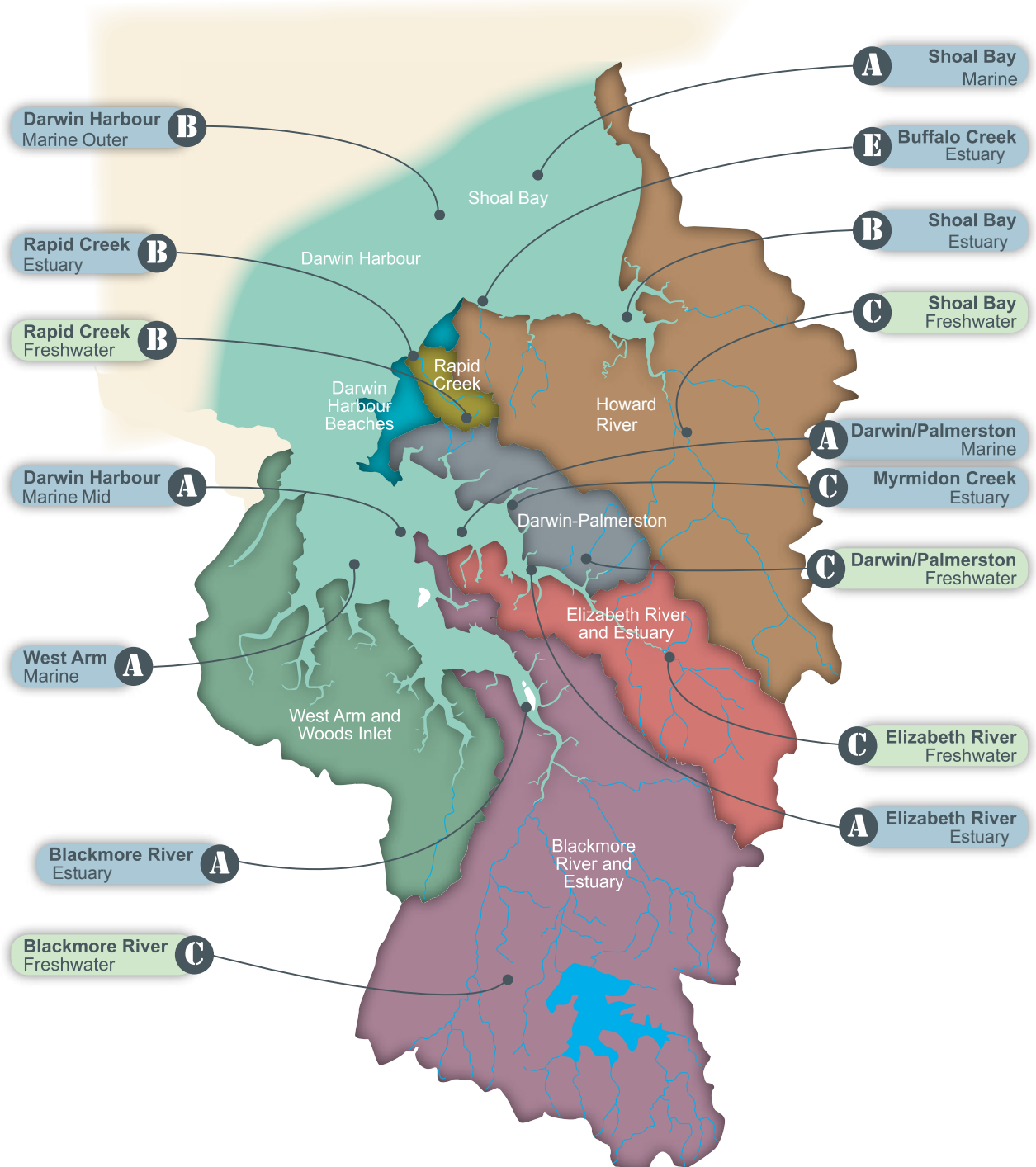
# Summary of freshwater and marine water quality grades



*Aquatic Health Technician Stephen Cusack lowering a Seabird water quality instrument into the waters of Darwin Harbour*

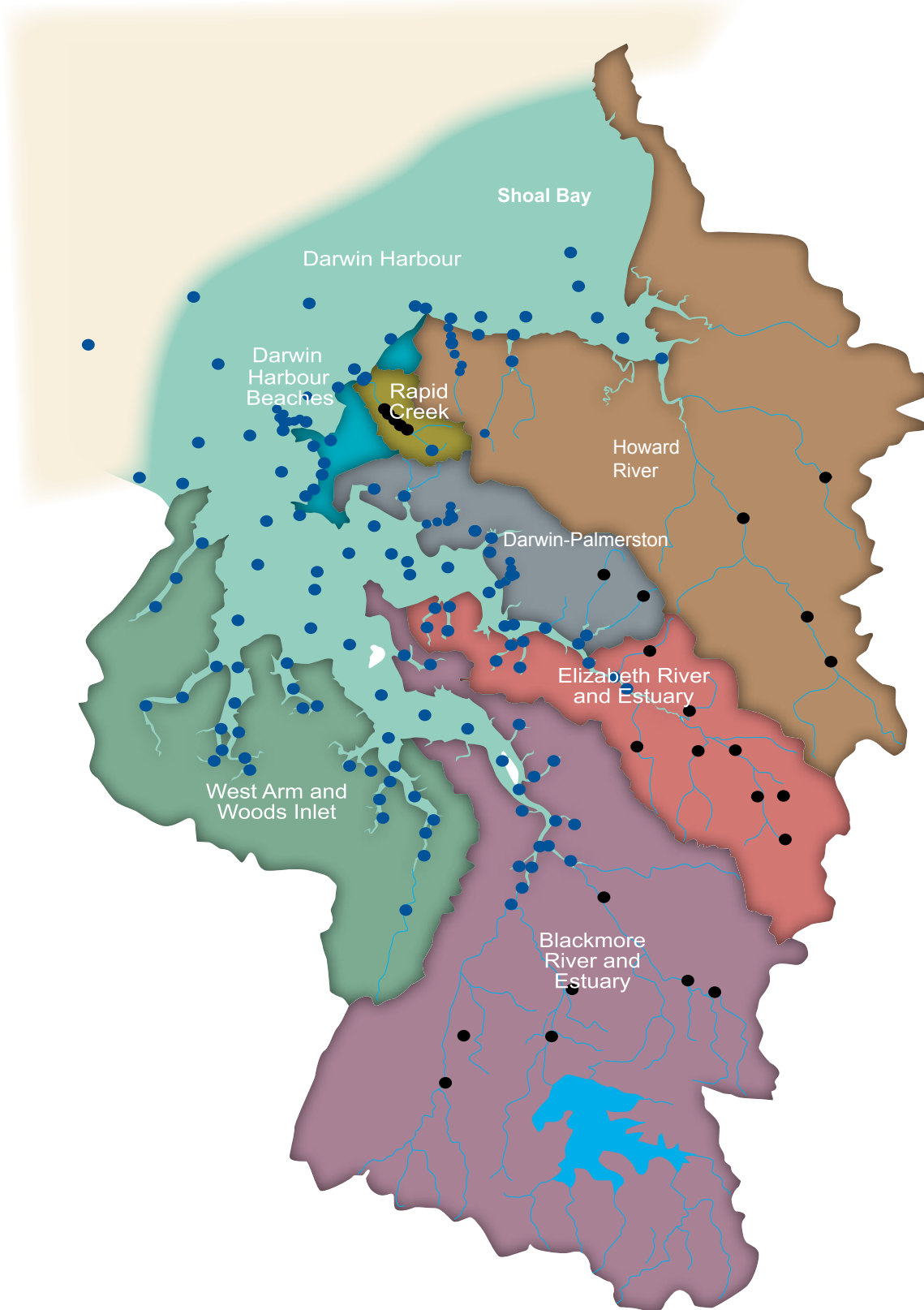
**Summary**

Water quality in Darwin Harbour and its catchment is generally good to excellent. Buffalo Creek remains in very poor condition, whilst Myrmidon Creek is graded as good; both of these tidal creeks receive treated sewage. The results are similar to past years, but do vary. These differences between years, and even within the region in the one year, are mainly natural and a result of the way the grades are calculated rather than pollution. To enhance the ability of the grades to distinguish between naturally occurring variability and human impacts on water quality, the way the grades are being scored and the underlying water quality objectives are being reviewed.



Water quality monitoring sites 2012

- Marine Monitoring Sites
- Freshwater Monitoring Sites



### Water quality monitoring

Water quality monitoring has been undertaken in Darwin Harbour and its catchment by the Department of Land Resource Management (DLRM) since 2001.

This Report Card provides a snapshot of water quality at 29 freshwater sites and 151 estuarine sites monitored between the mid-dry season of 2011 and 2012. The water quality of each site has been assigned a grade, from A to E, depending on compliance with local water quality objectives.

Data has been provided by the PowerWater Corporation for estuarine sites along the foreshore associated with treated sewage discharges, aquaculture discharges in the upper parts of the harbour, and Rapid Creek monitoring by Darwin International Airport.

This Report Card reports on freshwater data collected in May 2012.

### Water quality results

Darwin Harbour and its catchment received the following scorecard:

<b>A</b>	<b>A (Excellent)</b>	Darwin Harbour mid (marine) Darwin – Palmerston (marine) Blackmore Estuary Elizabeth Estuary West Arm and Woods inlet (marine) Shoal Bay (marine)
<b>B</b>	<b>B (Very good)</b>	Darwin Harbour outer (marine) Rapid Creek Estuary Shoal Bay Estuary Rapid Creek (freshwater)
<b>C</b>	<b>C (Moderate)</b>	Myrmidon Estuary Blackmore River (freshwater) Darwin – Palmerston (freshwater) Elizabeth River (freshwater) Shoal Bay (freshwater)
<b>D</b>	<b>D (Poor)</b>	None
<b>E</b>	<b>E (Very poor)</b>	Buffalo Creek Estuary