

Darwin Harbour Report Card 2018

AT A GLANCE

In 2018, water quality in Darwin Harbour was excellent overall. Myrmidon Creek received a good rating, whereas Buffalo Creek Estuary received a poor rating due to wastewater inflow from the Leanyer-Sanderson wastewater treatment plant.

- ✓ No aquatic pests were found in Darwin Harbour
- ✓ The beaches were suitable for swimming over the dry season
- ✓ Overall, the water quality of Darwin Harbour was excellent



The Darwin Harbour Report Card

Every year, the report card assesses the water quality of the harbour against the guidelines of the Darwin Harbour Water Quality Objectives. Nine zones represent different physical environments in the harbour, which feature diverse marine life such as seagrass beds, coral reefs and mangroves.

Water quality data for the Darwin Harbour Report Card was collected by the Aquatic Health Unit in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and supplemented by monitoring data from Power Water Corporation and the INPEX-operated Ichthys LNG.

Each zone in the harbour was assessed for water quality in 2018 and assigned a grade against four key water quality health indicators. These are algae, water clarity, dissolved oxygen and nutrients. Whilst the grades are different for some zones between 2017 and 2018, the long term trend is for water quality to remain much the same.



Darwin Harbour Report Card – Zones grade trend

* Long-term trend since 2012 reporting year.

| Zone | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|----------|----------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| | Elizabeth Estuary | East Arm | Middle Arm | West Arm | Middle Harbour | Outer Harbour | Shoal Bay | Buffalo Creek | Myrmidon Creek |
| 2018 Grade | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | D | B |
| Change since 2017 | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-term trend * | | | | | | | | | |

Symbols indicate change since last annual reporting period and long-term grade trend.



Increase



Decrease



No change

The full report card can be found at www.denr.nt.gov.au/reportcards

