

Blackmore River and Estuary

Summary

Water quality at the upper estuary monitoring sites is in very good condition. Water quality at the freshwater monitoring sites is in good condition. The water-bug community at six out of seven biological monitoring sites is equivalent to reference condition.

Nature of system

- Long residence time and poor flushing in the upper estuary
- Light limitation during the wet season
- Minor freshwater flows are maintained by Darwin River Dam during the dry season
- Minor freshwater flows are maintained by natural groundwater sources from Berry Creek during the dry season
- Phytoplankton biodiversity typically greater in dry season

Sources of pollution

- Several licensed aquaculture operations are located in the catchment and discharge into the Blackmore estuary
- High sediment and nutrient loads during the wet season from diffuse sources



Darwin River Dam was constructed in 1972 and is designed to supply 200,000 people. Photo: John Drewry

