



dry tropics partnership
for healthy waters

TOWNSVILLE DRY TROPICS Report Card 2021

Reporting on data from
July 2020-June 2021



**Partnering to improve the values
of our catchments and Reef**



Queensland Government

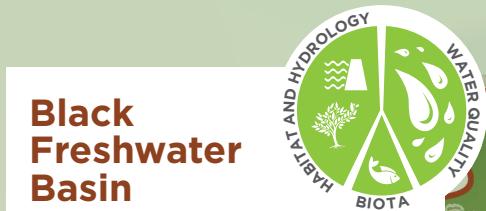


Australian Government



2020-2021 RESULTS

Map is not to scale



Black Freshwater Basin

8 of 10 sites had 'good' or 'very good' water quality. There were 20 native and 3 invasive fish species recorded in the basin, with 3 new indigenous species recorded for the first time (Giant Mottled Eel, Greenback Gudgeon and Scaleless Goby).





FAST FACTS

The area of seagrass has recovered from the 2019 floods and continues to expand. Most expansion has occurred on the deeper margins indicating there is sufficient water clarity for deeper growth.

Across different areas of Townsville, water quality was 'good' to 'very good' and either improved or stayed the same as last year.

The number of sites surveyed for the litter metric increased from 5 to 12.

Black Basin received 126% of its annual rainfall whilst the Ross Basin received 100%.

The inshore coral score has declined from last year.

SCORE AND INDICATOR KEY

Habitat and hydrology

Freshwater

- Riparian vegetation and wetlands
- Weirs and dams

Estuaries

- Saltmarsh
- Mangroves

Cleveland Bay

- Seagrass
- Coral

Halifax Bay

- Coral

Offshore Marine

- Coral

Water Quality



- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| A | Very good |
| B | Good |
| C | Moderate |
| D | Poor |
| E | Very poor |
| | Not enough information |

Fish



- | | |
|----------|------------------------|
| A | Very good |
| B | Good |
| C | Moderate |
| D | Poor |
| E | Very poor |
| | Not enough information |

Litter



Cleveland Bay Seagrass GUARDIANS OF THE BAY

Seagrass in our Cleveland Bay plays an important role in producing oxygen, providing food and shelter for marine fauna, and protecting the ocean floor and shorelines from erosion.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

A GLOBAL HOTSPOT FOR SEAGRASS

15 seagrass species

covering

35,000km²

1/2
of total seagrass area in Australia

larger than the area covered by coral

SEAGRASS PROVIDES FOOD AND SHELTER FOR MARINE ANIMALS

dugongs



turtles



prawns



crabs



fish



Seagrass meadows are a nursery area for commercially and recreationally important species



Numbers of marine animals rise and fall with the amount of seagrass available in the Bay

CLEVELAND BAY

11 seagrass species

250km²
5X the size of Magnetic Island

GOOD

seagrass condition
assessed by Long Term Seagrass Monitoring Program

18%

increase in total area since previous year

If you would like to know more follow the QR code and check out our Cleveland Bay Seagrass Story Map



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Partnership acknowledges the Bindal, Nywaigi, Manbarra and Wulgurukaba peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land in the Townsville Dry Tropics Report Card region. We acknowledge the support and commitment of our Partners, the Regional Report Card Technical Working Group and the Reef Water Quality Independent Science Panel, for their contributions to the science and communication behind this Report Card.

Photo credits: Beat Lehmann
Map and design by Hodge Environmental.

The Townsville Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters is one of five regional report cards in the Great Barrier Reef Catchment. For more details, see the [Report Card Explainer](#). The [Reef Water Quality Report Card](#) focuses on condition monitoring and tracking progress towards the targets within the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.