

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
250 Victoria Square Adelaide SA
T (08) 8204 2000 F (08) 8204 2020
Country areas 1800 623 445

18 September, 2015

EPA 2015 Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Reports

The EPA has released its latest series of aquatic reports with this year's results focussing on the condition of inland surface waters in areas of the South East and on near-shore marine ecosystems along the West Coast.

The Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Reports (AECR) are part of the EPA monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) program that provides water quality assessments from designated areas throughout South Australia which is measured on a six-level scale ranging from "very poor" to "excellent".

The most recent report is based on data from sites that were monitored during 2014.

Operations Director Science, Assessment and Planning Peter Dolan said the results of each inland water site and marine ecosystem bio-unit involves a detailed process of evaluation and assessment before they are finally released, which often means this takes place in the following year.

"This recent AECR release of inland surface waters covered 40 creeks, rivers and drain sites in the South East Natural Resources Management (NRM) region, in addition to six biounits in the West Coast bioregion," he said.

Mr Dolan said the results for both regions were unsurprising when taking into account the level of activities such as livestock, agriculture and some industries that will influence the water quality in the corresponding areas that are being tested.

"The level of agricultural and industrial activities has a significant influence on the surface waters in the South East and therefore it is not surprising that the ecosystems condition fell mostly in the 'fair to poor' range," he said.

"It was also noted that there was no significant deterioration or change in the condition of these inland waters since they were last monitored in 2009."

Mr Dolan said these results also highlights a need for everyone to take responsibility for their land use by taking measures to reduce any potential source of contaminating inland waters, creeks and drains.

Natural Resources South East Planning and Evaluation Manager Tim Bond said the survey results are not unexpected given the South East landscape is a highly modified system and the survey took place in a below average rainfall year.

"Natural Resources South East is working with a wide range of stakeholders to improve water quality across the region, especially for water dependent native plants and animals," Mr Bond said.

The near-shore marine results for the six biounits in the West Coast bioregion showed more positive results with condition ratings on a scale between "good" to "excellent".

"There are very few pressures on the marine ecosystems off the west coast of the state and this explains the very positive monitoring results that have been collected from this bioregion," Mr Dolan said.

The EPA aquatic program - AECR – for near-shore marine ecosystems and inland surface waters – creek, river and drain – involves the cyclical annual monitoring of one of five South Australian marine bioregions and one of eight NRM regions for creeks, rivers and lakes.

More information about the program and the latest water quality reports are available on the [Water Connect](#) section of the EPA website.

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641

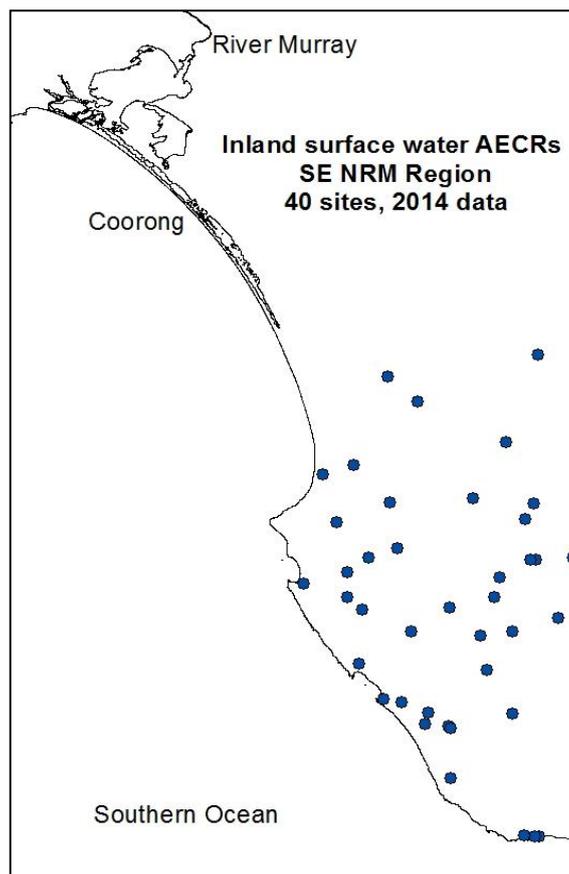
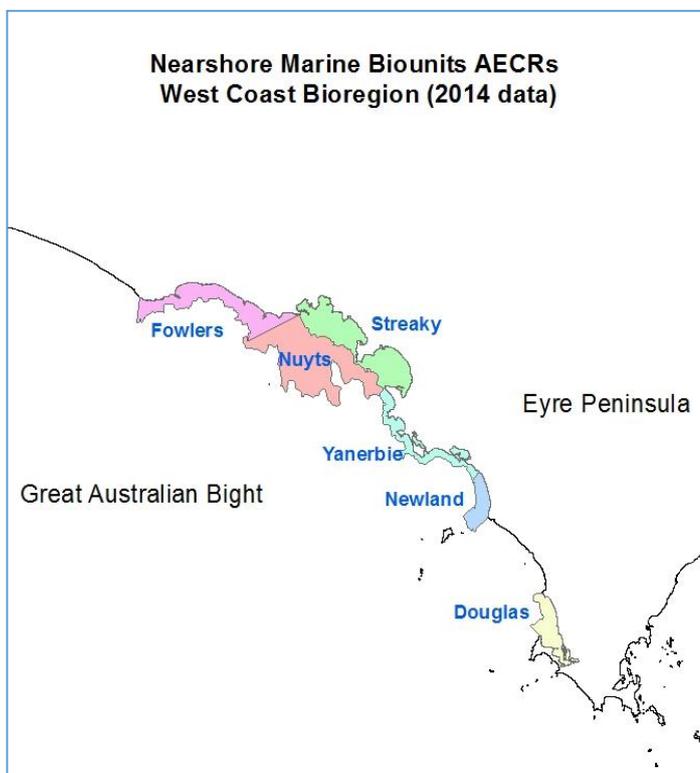
Aquatic Ecosystem Condition Reports (2015 release)

Near-shore Marine Ecosystem Condition Reports (2014 data)

Biounits West Coast Bioregion	Condition rating
• Fowlers	Excellent
• Nuyts	Excellent
• Streaky	Very Good
• Newland	Very Good
• Douglas	Good
• Yanerbie	Good

Creek, River and Drain Ecosystem Condition Ratings (2014 data)

Ecosystem condition rating (2014)	Number of inland sites
Excellent	0
Very Good	0
Good	2
Fair	16
Poor	21
Very Poor	1



For more information: [EPA website](#)

For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641