

Darwin Harbour Report Card 2017

AT A GLANCE

In 2017 water quality in Darwin Harbour was very good overall. Eight of the nine harbour zones had good to excellent water quality. The exception was Buffalo Creek Estuary, which is impacted by wastewater discharge from the Leanyer-Sanderson sewage treatment plant.



- ✓ No aquatic pests were found in Darwin Harbour for 2017
- ✓ The beaches were suitable for swimming over the 2017 dry season
- ✓ Overall the water quality of Darwin Harbour was good



THE 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 marine life such as seagrass beds, coral reefs and mangroves.

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

Each region in the harbour was assessed for water quality for the year 2017, and assigned a grade against four key water quality health indicators.



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
Grade	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	E	B
Water clarity	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Dissolved oxygen	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Algae	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Nutrients	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

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

