

# Waterway health results released for our region

The Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership has released the region’s latest waterway health scores.

The scores measure waterway health from the top of the catchment to the outer Reef for the period of July 2016 to June 2017.

Results reflect a range of indicators including water quality (sediment, pesticides and nutrients), water clarity, habitat and hydrology, coral and seagrass health.

This year’s scores suggest the Mackay-Whitsunday region still has water quality issues in some locations including both our catchments and marine environment.

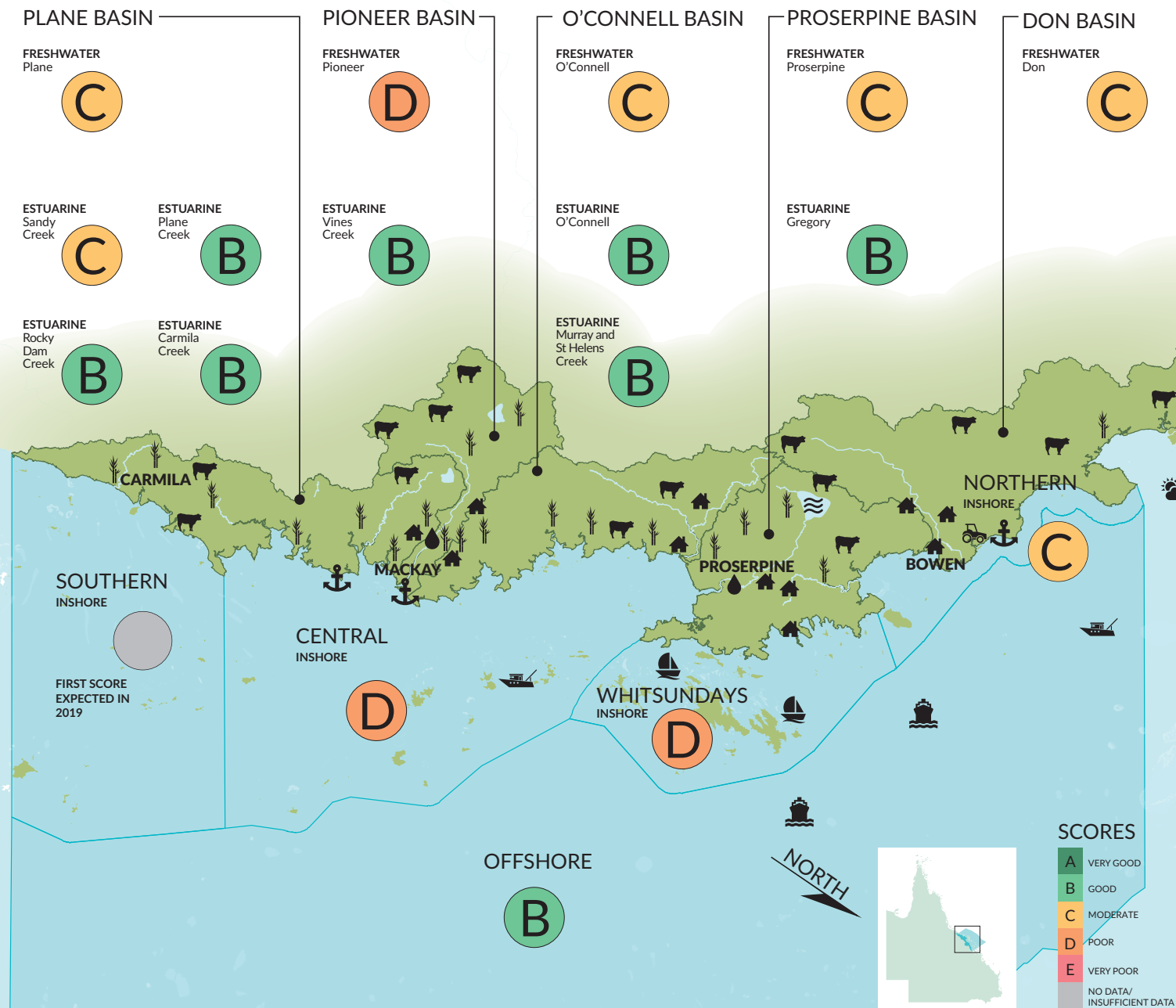
View full results and detailed information via our new interactive results platform, online. Users can dive deeper into the region’s waterway health data to better understand what is measured and why, as well as look at whether scores have changed over time from 2014.

For a more detailed look at the results for your area, visit our interactive results page: [healthyriverstoreef.org.au/report-card-results](http://healthyriverstoreef.org.au/report-card-results)



“These scores highlight the need for a continued focus on water quality improvement, action and funding for our region. Overall results are a mix of Bs, Cs and Ds, but there is no doubt waterway health is an A-grade issue.”

- Julie Boyd, Partnership Chair



“More awareness of waterway health is vital for our local community. We love a water based lifestyle, involving everything from industry and agriculture, to fishing and recreation. These annual results help give us the information we need to make informed decisions around waterway management.”

- Greg Williamson, Mayor of Mackay



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# Who are the Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership?

The Mackay-Whitsunday Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership (HR2RP) is made up of 25 organisations committed to understanding and improving the health of Mackay-Whitsunday waterways and marine environments. From ports and resources, to agriculture, conservation and natural resource management, research and Traditional Owners - diversity amongst Partners ensures all sectors are at the table. The Partnership allows collective access to the best available science in waterway and marine monitoring programs, representing an investment of more than \$4 million on an annual basis. **BE A PART OF IT - organisations interested in joining the Partnership can contact Charlie Morgan on [charlie.morgan@reefcatchments.com](mailto:charlie.morgan@reefcatchments.com) or 0457 306 152.**

## How are the Whitsundays faring post-Cyclone Debbie?

What does the Whitsunday region look like 20 months after Cyclone Debbie? The Partnership have put together the first collective post-cyclone regional update.

From river restoration and coral flipping, to tourism - the document focuses on the environmental and social impact of the cyclone, and the action that has since taken place.

“We are so excited to be able to help tell the recovery story of the Whitsunday region,” said Partnership Executive Officer, Charlie Morgan.

“The feature highlights the many recovery projects that are underway and completed in the Whitsundays. It also considers the state of the environment and the push from local operators for an even more agile response to natural disasters in the future.”

Disaster recovery funds to the Whitsundays have come primarily from the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

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