

Water Quality - the sleeping issue in the MDB?



A collaboration with:



The views, information, or opinions expressed herein are solely those of the individuals involved and don't necessarily represent those of the AWS, WaterRA, One Basin or their employees.

Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the Murray–Darling Basin and their Nations.



We invite you to write in the **chat** now and acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the location you're joining from today.



To join our mailing list, please
scan the QR code or visit
onebasin.com.au/newsletter



Today's panellists



Andrew Western,
Uni. of Melbourne



Jason Wilson,
*Traditional Owner from
the Northern Basin*



Dr Matt Landos,
Future Fisheries
Veterinary Service



Nyssa Henry,
Reef Lead,
Truii

Confluence Paper on Water Quality



A **discussion paper** to explore water quality issues that are important in the MDB

It aims to **indicate the base level of understanding** rather than provide management answers

To the extent possible, the discussion is **based in the literature** of the MDB and relevant studies are outside the MDB, noting that there are major knowledge gaps

We try to set the scene around **existing and potential management issues** and suggest future **research priorities and future actions**

We are in the process of drafting this and welcome feedback

Poor water quality is impacting on ecological and human health and a range of economic and societal values.

Catchment management has focussed mainly on macro pollutants such as nutrients, salts and sediment. These issues remain important. There is relatively good associated knowledge.

There is growing recognition of the potential impacts from a wide variety of chemicals of concern for both human and ecological health. Examples include pesticides, PFAS, and pharmaceuticals. Relevant knowledge is low.

Populations of organisms that are likely sensitive to water quality are seeing large declines across MDB rivers.

Rivers are important sources of food for Indigenous Australians and other river communities. These food sources are declining and could pose health risks, but knowledge is poor.

Chronic impacts on complex aquatic ecosystems take a long time to become apparent and we have limited knowledge of the role of water quality (especially chemicals of concern) in these declines.

The health, environmental and economic, externalities of widespread chronic exposure to poor water quality are poorly understood but should be incorporated into management decisions.

There are major knowledge gaps related to most of the above statements, although the direction of action is clear.

This hampers effective management action.

Exposure to many chemicals of concern is via multiple pathways and a one-health approach is likely needed in managing these.

One-health implies an integrated rather than siloed approach to the health of people, animals and the environment.

The best integrated catchment water quality management program in Australia is in the Great Barrier Reef catchments and it is leading to improved water quality

Water quality is best managed at the source, which in the context of the MDB often involves agriculture.

From an environmental perspective, usually water quality can only be managed at the source.

Questions?



Thank you

www.onebasin.com.au

Feedback via
www.onebasin.com.au/contact/



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources

**Cooperative Research
Centres Program**

Thanks for attending



Recording link will be emailed to you and uploaded to the AWS website and YouTube channel.



As a live attendee, you will receive a **Certificate of Attendance** within the next *two business days*. This may count toward your Continuing Professional Development hours.



A **short 1-minute survey** will pop up at the webinar's conclusion *or complete it on your phone now by scanning the QR code*.



Enjoyed the webinar today?
See you at the next month's One Basin Webinar on 6th August



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Science and Resources

**Cooperative Research
Centres Program**