

Clean-up improves habitats

Marine Debris Management of Moreton Bay Mangroves

Proponent: SEQ Catchments



During the flood events of 2011 a significant amount of debris flowed unchecked into Moreton Bay. This project aimed to identify the amount of marine debris impacting on mangrove and saltmarsh communities. OceanWatch Australia agreed that it was important to determine impacts of, and to remove, marine debris particularly in areas adjoining declared Fish Habitat Areas.

As part of the project, the University of Queensland conducted an assessment of mangrove and saltmarsh communities in the southern part of Moreton Bay and provided a detailed description of the scale and extent of marine debris as well as a comprehensive health assessment of mangrove communities. Other contributors to the initial assessment were participants in the MangroveWatch Program who provided advice on the extent of debris observed in MangroveWatch locations within Moreton Bay estuaries.

Multiple stakeholders, including Quandamooka, Moreton Bay Marine Park, Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service, University of Queensland, QLD Fisheries, Maritime Safety Queensland, Moreton Bay Seafood Industry Association, and Oceanwatch Australia have partnered in the project to generate a spatial prioritisation for the removal of marine debris impacting on Moreton Bay's coastline, saltmarsh, mangroves and fish stocks.

Marine debris clean-ups have taken place at Myora Springs, North Stradbroke Island and occurred near Bulwer, Moreton Island.