



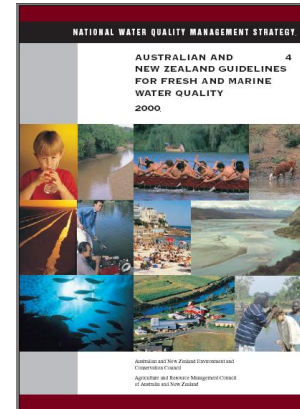
Queensland Water Quality Guidelines

Andrew MOSS, Dane MOULTON, John BENNETT
(andrew.moss@derm.qld.gov.au)

Queensland Department of Environment
and Resource Management, Australia

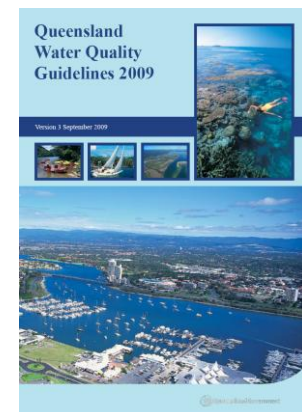
National Guidelines for Water Quality

- The ANZECC 2000 guidelines provide default guideline values for ecosystem protection
- However, the ANZECC 2000 Guidelines recommend that users should develop their own locally relevant guidelines wherever possible



“Where appropriate, state and/or local jurisdictions can use their own legislative and regulatory tools to refine these national water quality guidelines either into their own regional guidelines or into specific water quality objectives.” P 1-6 Vol 1

- The Queensland Water Quality Guidelines (QWQG) address the need for more locally relevant guidelines (for ecosystem protection)
- For human use type environmental values such as irrigation or recreational use, national guidelines will continue to apply in Queensland



Queensland WQ Guidelines

- The Queensland Water Quality Guidelines are not a complete replacement for the ANZECC Guidelines, rather they complement them. The QWQG are a logical extension of the ANZECC Guidelines and provide a vehicle for the ongoing development of guidelines at a State, regional and local level
- The Queensland Water Quality Guidelines are about :
 - Developing guidelines tailored to waterways at both regional and local levels in Qld
 - Developing guidelines for new and innovative indicators
- QWQG values take precedence over ANZECC Guideline values. However, where no QWQG values are available, users should default to ANZECC Guidelines. For some types of indicators (e.g. toxicants), the ANZECC Guidelines will remain the principal source for guideline values
- The QWQG is a living document. There will be an ongoing process to continue developing better and more comprehensive guidelines for Queensland waters
- The QWQG focus on the environmental value (EV) “Aquatic Ecosystem Protection”, however State guidelines for other EVs are included where available

Queensland Guidelines can be downloaded from the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management website

Queensland guidelines are largely based on reference condition

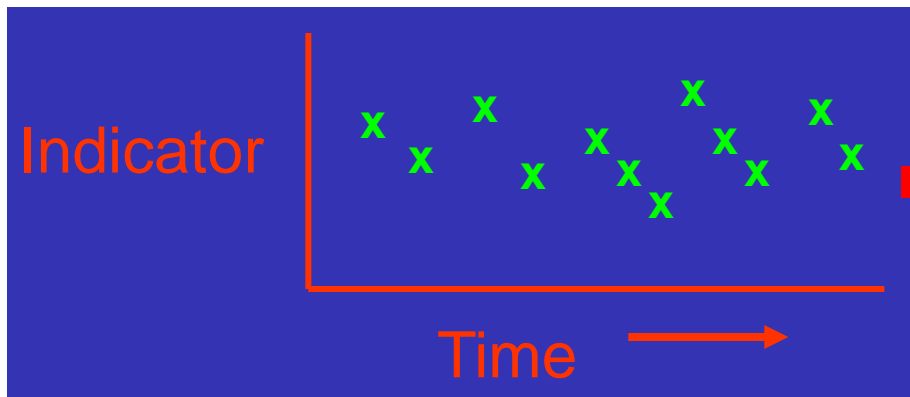
Reference sites

Sites whose condition we want to use as a benchmark. Reference sites need to cover the many different water types in Queensland






e.g.

Reference data



Reference data used to develop guideline values for relevant indicators

	Phys-Chem WQ
	Biota
	Habitat

Queensland WQ Guidelines

Apart from guideline values themselves, the QWQG include sections on:

- Deriving sub-regional (local) guidelines
- Applying guidelines
- Water types used for Qld guidelines
- Reference data for indicators for which no formal guidelines are provided e.g. levels of metals in biota
- Links to other guidelines (e.g. recreation)

Queensland WQ Guidelines

Examples of Uses:

- A technical basis for establishing Water Quality Objectives
- Licensing discharges to waters
- Assessing EIS documents
- Assessing monitoring data

