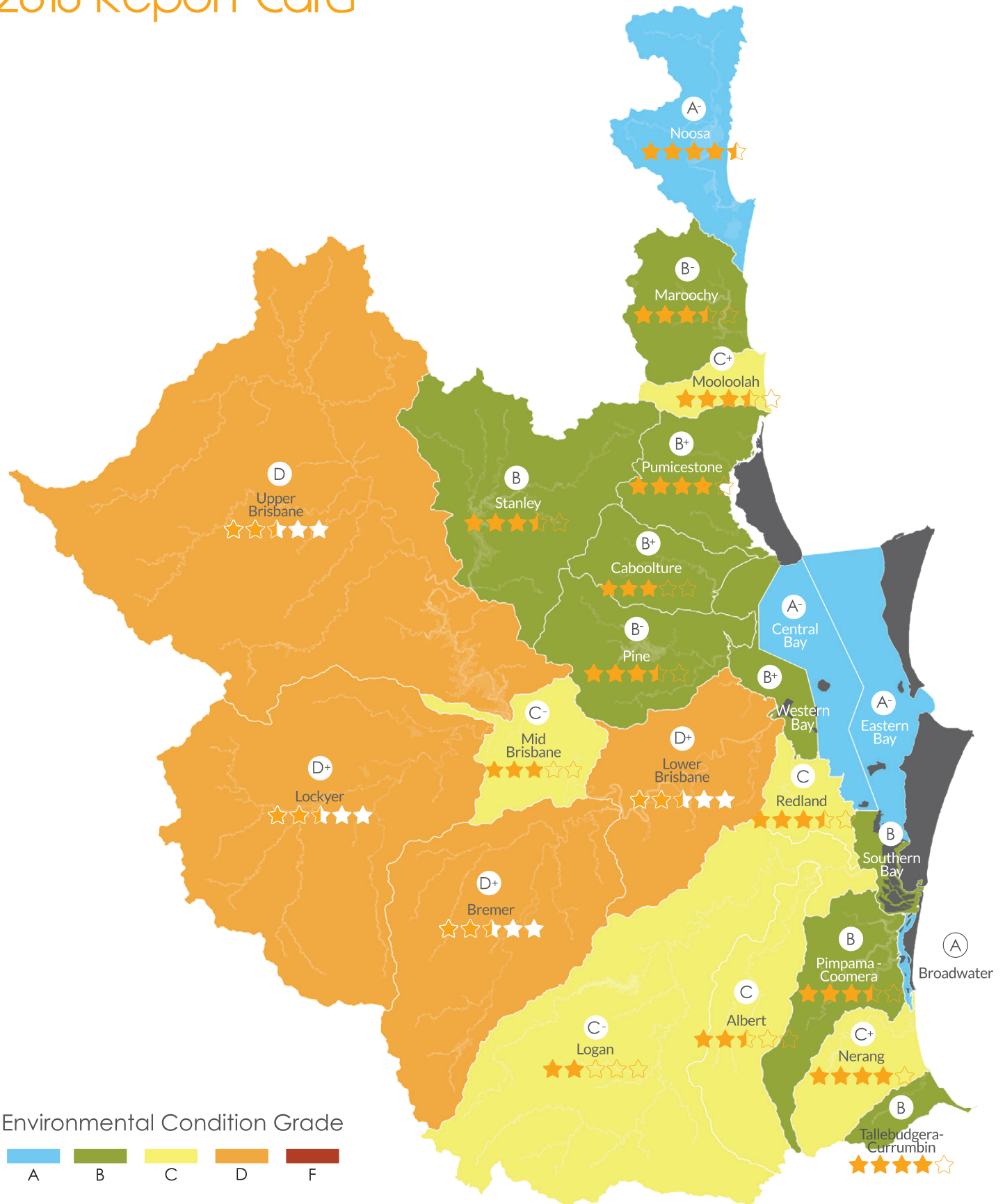
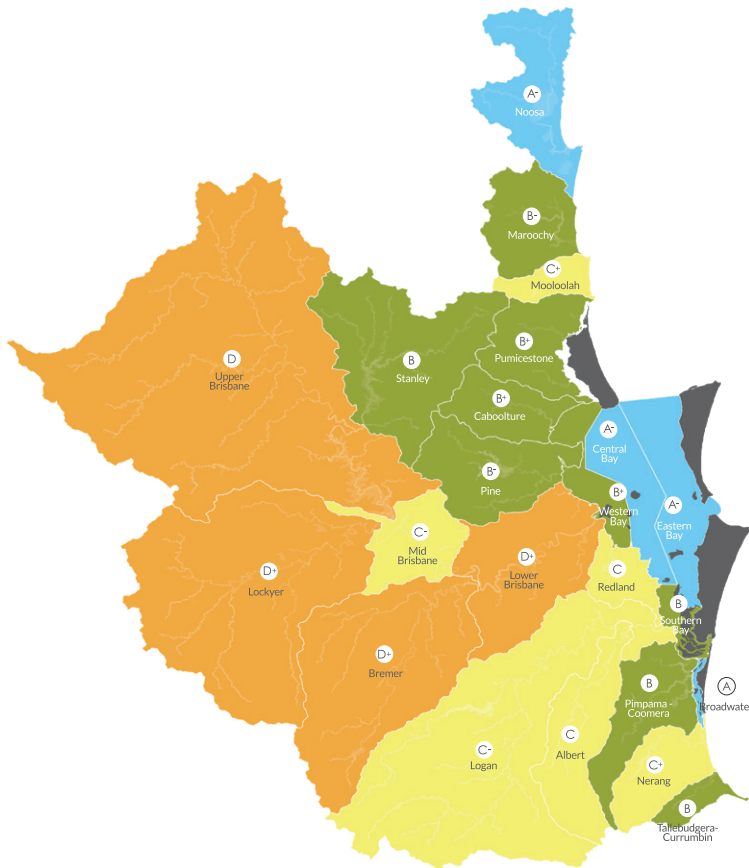


2018 Report Card



2018 Report Card Environmental Condition Grade



The Environmental Condition Grade is comprised of multiple indicators, assessing key freshwater and estuarine aspects of the waterways. Indicators are assessed against established guidelines and benchmarks, resulting in a single grade for each catchment or bay zone. The data used to calculate the grade is an integration of modelling and field monitoring.

- A** Excellent: Conditions meet all guidelines. All key processes are functional and critical habitats are in near pristine condition.
- B** Good: Conditions meet guidelines for most of the reporting area. Most key processes are slightly impacted and most critical habitats are intact.
- C** Fair: Conditions are close to meeting guidelines in most of the reporting area. Key processes are impacted but still functional and critical habitats are impacted.
- D** Poor: Conditions meet few of the guidelines in most of the reporting area. Many key processes are not functional and most critical habitats are impacted.
- F** Fail: Conditions do not meet the set guidelines. Most key processes are not functional and most critical habitats are severely impacted.

The Environmental Condition Story of 2018

The revival of seagrass in Moreton Bay is the good news story of 2018. Seagrass coverage continues to expand in Deception Bay and - for the first time since monitoring began in 2000 - seagrass has returned to Bramble Bay, a region heavily impacted by sediment and nutrient pollution. The recovery is significant as seagrasses are a critical nursery habitat for commercially important fish and crabs.

So why has seagrass recovered? Improved practices in wastewater treatment over the past ten years have led to a lower concentration of nutrients, which leads to improved water quality and a better growing environment for seagrass.

The condition of some estuaries declined in 2018 due to the low to average rainfall experienced across SEQ. The lack of rain meant most of the mud and nutrient runoff came from urban landscapes adjacent to our estuaries.

Catchments that have been heavily cleared continue to fluctuate in condition more than those

that have intact vegetation. That means that in higher rainfall years, more pollutants flow into our waterways and estuaries from poorly vegetated catchments than heavily forested catchments.

As in years past, Moreton Bay remains in good condition and retains an A- grade. But despite positive signs, Moreton Bay is still under threat due to the poor condition of catchments like the Bremer and Lockyer which drain into the bay. Once again, mud and nutrient pollution that is largely sourced from western catchments remains the biggest threat to the health of Moreton Bay.

Every South East Queensland resident can help improve waterway health and ensure the revival of seagrass in Moreton Bay continues by helping to curb mud runoff.

Whether you're at home, on farmland or working on a construction site, keep bare soil covered and prevent mud runoff from entering stormwater drains.

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