



Monitoring Water Quality



It is important that the quality of water that enters and leaves the City of Salisbury’s wetlands is carefully monitored. Small changes can warn us that things are not working properly and allow us to take steps to fix problems before they become too difficult to manage.



Top Monitoring water quality at the Salisbury Wetlands
Photo: Luke Simon

Above Visual analysis of cleansed stormwater allows a quick assessment of turbidity prior to laboratory analysis.
Photo: Luke Simon

Water in the City of Salisbury’s wetlands is checked for sediments, salinity and a range of pollutants and nutrients. Sometimes samples are collected for bacterial counts, or planktonic algae may be examined.

This monitoring allows us to predict environmental problems before they happen. Crucial things to monitor include:

- Water quality - Microbial, salinity, turbidity (cloudiness) and nutrient data can tell us whether the wetland is treating the water adequately.

- Macroinvertebrate diversity and population - The range of aquatic macroinvertebrate species and their numbers in a wetland reveals whether the wetland is providing a habitat that will support a diversity of life forms.
- Sediment quality - The materials that become trapped in the sediments are monitored to determine whether they are toxic and whether they exceed Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines.



- Vegetation surveys - Species of plants and the cover they provide are recorded to allow the detection of weeds before they get out of control, and to determine areas that need additional planting or slowing of water flow. The health of the plants can indicate things such as a change in soil salinity, or a build-up of certain metals.

Council involves school groups and members of the community in wetland monitoring programs, through the Waterwatch Program. If you'd like to be involved please contact NRM Education.

Learn more

For more information on related topics, see the other fact sheets in the Wetlands series. You may also like to visit the following websites for more information:

For an introduction to water monitoring for school students
www.amlnrm.sa.gov.au

The Australian Water Quality Centre, water quality testing
www.awqc.com.au/awqc

Watercare
www.watercare.net.au

Waterwatch
www.waterwatchadelaide.net.au



Top Wetlands are continually monitored to ensure they are performing the tasks we require of them.

Photo: Luke Simon

Above Even though cleansed stormwater meets stringent quality guidelines, it is not suitable for drinking.

Photo: Luke Simon

Contact the Watershed
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Salisbury, Sustaining Our **Environment**

