

Impacts of a large-scale flood event on sub-tropical intertidal seagrass meadows

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Long term monitoring of coastal seagrasses in the Port of Gladstone has provided the opportunity to better understand the impacts of extreme weather events on these marine plant communities. We studied the effects of a large-scale flood event in the summer of 2010-2011 on seven intertidal seagrass meadows at Gladstone Harbour on the central east coast of Queensland. Significant declines in percent cover and above-ground biomass were recorded at several meadows following the weather event with some meadows yet to recover to pre-flood levels by early 2012. Seagrass condition, assessed quarterly and more recently monthly from November 2009 (and biannually from 2005 for some locations), was tested against potential drivers (rainfall, river flow, PAR, temperature and tidal exposure) using multiple linear regression analysis. We present the results from this analysis. We also present results of an investigation of the capacity for meadow recovery from a below ground seed bank.

Engaging the community in setting environmental values for coastal and inland waters in South Australia

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Over the last decade the Healthy Waters Group in the SA, Environment Protection Authority (EPA) have used a variety of approaches to engage different spectrums of the community in setting community agreed Environmental Values (EVs) for several coastal and inland waters in SA. These approaches have ranged from targeted community and stakeholder workshops, to open-house forums and stakeholder user groups, to community driven engagement. Seeking input from local Aboriginal groups has also been part of this process of community engagement for setting community agreed EVs in SA. These processes have been complimented through online communication and feedback tools to enhance provision of information and community engagement in setting EVs for waterways. What has been learnt from the experience of community engagement in SA through developing EVs to feed into the Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan, Adelaide Coastal Water Quality Improvement Plan, Adelaide Watershed Water Quality Improvement Plan and most recently work in the setting EVs to improve water quality in Lake Bonney SE and it's catchments, can be applied to undertake similar work across other areas of SA and also nationally.

Food futures: challenges for Australia's coastal zones [Poster]

McHenry presenting: Rockloff, Susan¹, Melinda McHenry^{*2} and Phil Brown²

Refer 'Rockloff' for abstract.