



WATER QUALITY

Volunteers

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Volunteers ranging in number from one to three at a time collected water quality samples from Agency (EPA). The EPA then arranged to have our samples analysed by the Australian Centre for Freshwater Research. Unfortunately, much of the data that had been gathered by the Water Quality Team in addition to filter papers ready to be sent for analysis were destroyed in the floods Townsville experienced in January 1998. As such, there is no reliable data that can be reported on.

More recently RIVER received approval to re-allocate existing Coastcare funds to purchase a TPS 90 FL Field Analyser for Conductivity, Salinity, pH, Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen sites within the Ross River estuary. The parameter being measured was chlorophyll A. It was decided that chlorophyll A is a sound indicator of nutrient load in a waterway, and is a simple indirect technique for obtaining this information. The samples were filtered and then sent to the Environment Protection. The RIVER group in conjunction with other interested community groups and individuals, will seek advice from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Townsville City Council, the Environment Protection Agency and the Australian Centre for Freshwater Research to highlight strategic sites for sampling by community groups.

The sampling regime will be validated by Quality Control measures. The RIVER group will target the Ross River in the onset of this project. However, if demand from within the community arises, other water bodies may also be sampled using the same regime.