

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH MONITORING PROGRAM

REVIEW CARD

2021



EHMP Review

The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) has been reviewed approximately every five years since 2010 to ensure the program continuously improves and adapts. This has resulted in the program remaining relevant to member and stakeholder needs, retaining scientific rigour, and incorporating advances in research and technology, whilst representing value for money.

The aim of the 2020 EHMP Review is to continue improved alignment of the EHMP with member needs, while retaining program integrity and expanding the scope to align with future monitoring and reporting frameworks. The first, of eight tasks of this review, is to determine if the current EHMP is meeting its aims and objectives and if these aims and objectives are still relevant into the future?

To achieve this, EHMP stakeholders were engaged to review the program's goals, aims and objectives, in order to develop a review card on the performance of the program.

Developing the EHMP Review Card

1

Stakeholder engagement

Representatives from partner organisations were engaged via workshops to review existing aims and objectives of the EHMP, confirm they were still valid, and suggest any amendments.

2

Development of review card framework

Following review of existing and potential EHMP aims and objectives, a reporting framework was developed consisting of four dimensions including: i) data and information, ii) evaluation, iii) engagement and communication, and iv) actions and achievements.

3

Indicator development

Stakeholders were guided through a process of choosing indicators that would represent the status of each of the four dimensions outlined in Step 2 above. A short-list of 12 indicators chosen, three per dimension.

4

Survey design and distribution

An online survey was developed consisting of 15 questions related to the four EHMP dimensions and twelve associated indicators. The survey was reviewed by the Healthy Land and Water Social Science Expert Panel. A total of 40 respondents completed the survey.

5

Analysis of results

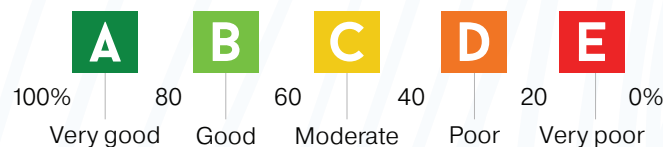
All responses were converted into a 0-100% numerical score based on set response criteria. Scores were averaged per question, resulting in an indicator score. Indicator scores were averaged to provide a dimension score. Dimension scores were averaged to provide the overall review card score as shown in the scoring pie on the following page.

6

Review and Reporting

Results of the review card were presented back to stakeholders for review, comment, and development of recommendations aimed at improving scores in the future. These recommendations are featured in this review card.

EHMP Review Card Findings



The Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program received an overall “moderate” to “good” review card grade (C⁺ = 59%). This was a reflection of good scores for the dimensions: data and information (61%), evaluation (62%), engagement and communication (62%), and a moderate score for actions and achievements (52%).

All indicators received “moderate” or “good” scores. There was a preference in the survey results to increase the resolution of sampling locations so that results could be viewed at a finer scale. Also there was widespread support for a greater role of citizen science in data collection as part of EHMP.

Discussion on recommendations and satisfaction with the level of communication...

Discussion on actions and achievements...

Quote from survey: Omnis ad magnist ut vellent tenientur aut omni ditioratus sapicip-ident optiunt eum am quia qui aut late si veliciditat ulla ditecta ssequi imus

EHMP Review Card Recommendations

Data and Information

Scale and Frequency

- Use available data even when not consistently available across all regions (assuming data is of high quality). Use for reporting at a finer geographic scale.

Citizen Science

- Develop a training program to improve the type and quality of citizen science data.
- Develop uniform guidelines for sample collection, handling, and storage, transport, and establish a tiered system based on quality assurance plans. Data in different tiers could be used for different purposes.

Availability and Use

- Use large scale press events to increase awareness and availability of EHMP data. Increase frequency of reporting.

Quote from survey: Omnis ad magnist ut vellento tenientur aut omni ditioratus sapicip-ident optiunt eum am quia qui aut late si veliciditat ulla ditecta ssequi imus

Evaluation

Reach

- Develop messaging around interventions and actions and contract outside event/PR firm to help with report card launch to elevate dissemination effectiveness.

Awareness

- Develop educational materials to integrate into curricula and administer regular surveys (e.g., feedback for rates notices) to assess environmental literacy.

Satisfaction

- Use social networks to target specific groups (e.g., kayakers, decision makers) and form focus groups to establish best practices on report card timing, style, themes.

Quote from survey: Omnis ad magnist ut vellento tenientur aut omni ditioratus sapicip-ident optiunt eum am quia qui aut late si veliciditat ulla ditecta ssequi imus

EHMP Review Card Recommendations continued

Engagement and Communication

Indicator and threshold relevance

- Investigate opportunities for including indicators that assess public health risk.
- Audit thresholds (including pollutant load thresholds) being used by member organisations, to better understand relevance of EHMP thresholds, and review and adjust if necessary.

REMP Requirements

- Realign existing or place additional EHMP sites to be within 1 km of discharge locations points (particularly in freshwater locations).
- Increase frequency at sites linked to discharge location (particularly in freshwater locations).
- Include WQ indicators (nutrients & phys/chem) at all EHMP sites aligned with discharge locations (particularly in freshwater locations).
- Add biological parameters (key communities) to estuarine/marine sites (e.g. fish abundance, benthic faunal surveys, or isotopic nutrient samples in adjacent vegetation or algae).

and....

- Formalise EHMP as officially delivering the REMF regional assessment
- Review EHMP freshwater indicators with inclusion of physico-chemical measures.
- Co-ordinate SEQ data sharing
- Develop and implement meaningful biological indicators in EHMP as required to fulfil REMF regional assessment.

Recommendations

- Develop geographically finer-scale recommendations to assist implementation of actions by groups working on-the ground.
- Hold annual report card community workshops with local government and community to share results, discuss local issues and recommendations. Outcomes from these workshops can be included in NRM assessment and reporting (annual adaptive management cycle).
- Ground-truth and translate modelling results to recommendations and actions.

Actions and Achievements

Policy

- Support partners in developing their own policies via engagement with the Science Committee and/or relevant expert panels.
- Facilitate knowledge-sharing of policy development activities in South East Queensland amongst partners.
- Provide greater clarity on the end result of policy implementation, and its impact on report card grades.
- Link EHMP results to water quality objectives to determine if they are achievable, which can then influence policy focus/changes.

Programs

- Showcase programs underway in South East Queensland amongst partners to improve knowledge sharing.
- Offer guidance to partners from HLW expert panels on program development.

Acknowledgement

- Increase frequency of showcasing partner achievements throughout the year, rather than just at the report card release.

Quote from survey: Omnis ad magnist ut vellento tenientur aut omni ditioratus sapicip-ident optiunt eum am quia qui aut late si veliciditat ulla ditecta ssequi imus

Stakeholder participation

A series of three online stakeholder engagement workshops were held to design and develop content for this inaugural EHMP review card.



Workshop 1 (17 June 2021)

Workshop to introduce review card process and review existing EHMP aims and objectives

Bill Dennison, Dylan Taillie, Jack Coates-Marnane, Emily Saeck, Kari-Ann West, Simon Costanzo, Rod Connolly, Natalie Baker, Chris Hoffman, Heath Kelsey, Monique Gastaldin, Michael Castiglione, Helen Ross, Grace Muriuki, Shannon Mooney, Graham Webb, David Moffatt, Simon Rotherham, Denise Lindon, Fran Sheldon, Jan Maddin, Cameron Jackson, Corinna Byrne, Emily Saeck.



Workshop 2 (25 June 2021)

Workshop to discuss reporting framework and identify potential indicators

Emily Saeck, Dylan Taillie, Simon Costanzo, Bill Dennison, Heath Kelsey, Jack Coates-Marnane, Michael Castiglione, Rod Connolly, Helen Ross, Andrew O'Neill, Natalie Baker, Dave Waters, Miriam Nyrene, Fran Sheldon, Denise Lindon, Suzi Moore, Susie Chapman, Tan Trieu, David Moffatt, Monique Gastaldin, Cameron Jackson, Jan Maddin.



Workshop 3 (28 October 2021)

Workshop to discuss summary of results and develop recommendations

Heath Kelsey, Simon Costanzo, Joe edgerton, Emily Saeck, Bill Dennison, Fran Sheldon, Shannon Mooney, David Moffatt, Scott Lowe, Michael Castiglione, Susie Chapman, Jack Coates-Marnane, Britt Rogers, Helen Ross, Tan Trieu, Luisa Magalhaes, Chris Hoffman, Natalie Baker, Simon Rotherham and Graham Webb (joined after photo was taken).

PARTNERS



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the EHMP Review, contact Emily Saeck at Emily.S@hlw.org.au

Workshop facilitation and production of this review card by Darwinian Consulting Pty. Ltd.
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Cover photos:

