

# Review of the Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program

## Client

South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Monitoring Program

## Date

2010

## Services & Expertise Provided

Environmental planning and policy review;

Facilitation of scientific experts; and

Consultation and engagement.

The South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership's Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) monitors the physical, chemical and biological condition of fresh, estuarine and marine waters—from Noosa in the north to the New South Wales border in the south and Toowoomba in the west.

Operating since 1999, the Partners of the Healthy Waterways Partnership sought to review the success of the EHMP in meeting its objectives and assess the future relevance of EHMP, given future management actions, technological advances and scientific improvements in monitoring design and implementation.

Commenced in early 2010, the EHMP Review process was managed by the Partnership's Secretariat, with assistance from BMT WBM as an external Review Coordinator. The review itself was undertaken by a panel of national experts—the EHMP Review Panel.

Based on the proceedings and discussions of the Review Panel during a week-long workshop, BMT WBM prepared a Review Report which outlined the outcomes, resolutions and recommendations of the review.

Following consultation and review by numerous Partnership groups and committees, the Review Report was released in July 2010. Overall the recommendations of the Review have received positive feedback and support from Healthy Waterways Partners. One specific task identified in the review process was the need to enhance the efficiency of the current sampling program. In addition, whilst the review looked at the current program, a number of additional recommendations were raised by Partners such as the monitoring of drivers and pressures, monitoring the effectiveness of management actions and human health risks.

These recommendations have been summarised into a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which will be used in the development of the EHMP business case to extend the program.

