

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our indicator assessment summary captures the status, trends and existing data quality for 36 indicators.

Indicator	Status and trends				Data quality
	UNKNOWN	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	
Nitrogen cycle Denitrification efficiency				 PPB	Good Good data quality but only at two sites
Nitrogen cycle Ratio of nitrogen fixation to denitrification				 WP	Poor
Water quality Nutrients				 PPB & WP	Good
Water quality Water clarity		 WP		 PPB	Good
Water quality Salinity				 PPB & WP	Good
Water quality Dissolved oxygen				 PPB & WP	Good
Water quality pH				 PPB & WP	Poor
Water quality Metals				 PPB & WP	Good (WP – monitoring ceased due to low levels)
Water quality Algae		 WP		 PPB	Good
Water quality Harmful algae blooms			 PPB		Good
Water quality Sediment contamination			 PPB & WP		Poor (random surveys)
Water quality Temperature			 PPB & WP		Good
Water quality <i>Enterococci</i> bacteria				 PPB	Good
Intertidal vegetation Saltmarsh and mangrove extent			 PPB		Good

Indicator	Status and trends				Data quality
	UNKNOWN	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	
Intertidal vegetation Saltmarsh condition					Fair
Intertidal vegetation Saltmarsh and mangrove extent					Good
Intertidal vegetation Saltmarsh condition					Fair
Intertidal vegetation Status of foraging shore birds					Good
Seagrass Seagrass extent					Poor
			PPB Larger areas stable, other areas variable		
Seagrass Seagrass condition					Fair
Seagrass Seagrass dependent fish					Good
Seagrass Seagrass extent					Fair
Subtidal reef Macro algae dominated beds					Poor (north) Good (south)
Subtidal reef Fish					Fair (north) Good (south)
Subtidal reef Mobile megafaunal invertebrates					Good
Subtidal reef Sea urchins					Fair (north) no time series Good (south)

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Indicator	Status and trends				Data quality
	UNKNOWN	POOR	FAIR	GOOD	
Intertidal reef Macroalgae				 PPB	Overall fair (Good in MPAs (Ricketts and Point Lonsdale) but lack of monitoring bay-wide)
Intertidal reef Sessile invertebrates				 PPB	Fair
Intertidal reef Mobile invertebrates				 PPB	Overall fair (marine parks) Good (Lack of bay-wide monitoring)
Fish King George whiting				 PPB Trend cyclic	Good
Fish Snapper				 PPB	Good
Fish Sand flathead		 PPB			Good
Birds Status of roosting shorebirds			 PPB		Good
Birds Status of waterbirds			 WP		Good
Birds Status of piscivorous (fish-eating) birds				 WP	Good
Birds Status of little penguins				 PPB & WP	Good Poor (St Kilda)