



QMDC Draft Environmental Values

Healthy systems are essential to meet both community and ecosystem demands on the region’s water environments.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), in partnership with the Queensland Government, is developing Healthy Waters Management Plans (HWMPs) for the Maranoa-Balonne and Lower Condamine, the Queensland Border Rivers and the Moonie River catchments (planning regions). The HWMPs aim to protect or enhance community values associated with water.

HWMPs support the achievement of the purpose of the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 (EPP Water) by identifying the Environmental Values (EVs), management goals and water quality objectives (WQOs) of Queensland waters, and deciding ways to improve water quality.

EVs are identified both for aquatic ecosystems and for human uses (e.g. water for cultural and spiritual use, drinking, farm supply, agriculture, industry and recreational use).

The full list of EVs that can be identified for a zone are listed in Table 1 (below).

Table 1: Environmental values listed under the EPP Water.

 aquatic ecosystems	 primary recreation
 irrigating crops	 secondary recreation
 farm use	 visual appreciation
 stock watering	 raw drinking water
 aquaculture	 industrial use
 human consumption	 cultural and spiritual values

Zones were mapped for each planning region based on a review of available geographic, geological and hydrological data (see map over page).

Draft EVs were established for each zone from a review of historic documents, consultation with stakeholders and an EV survey.

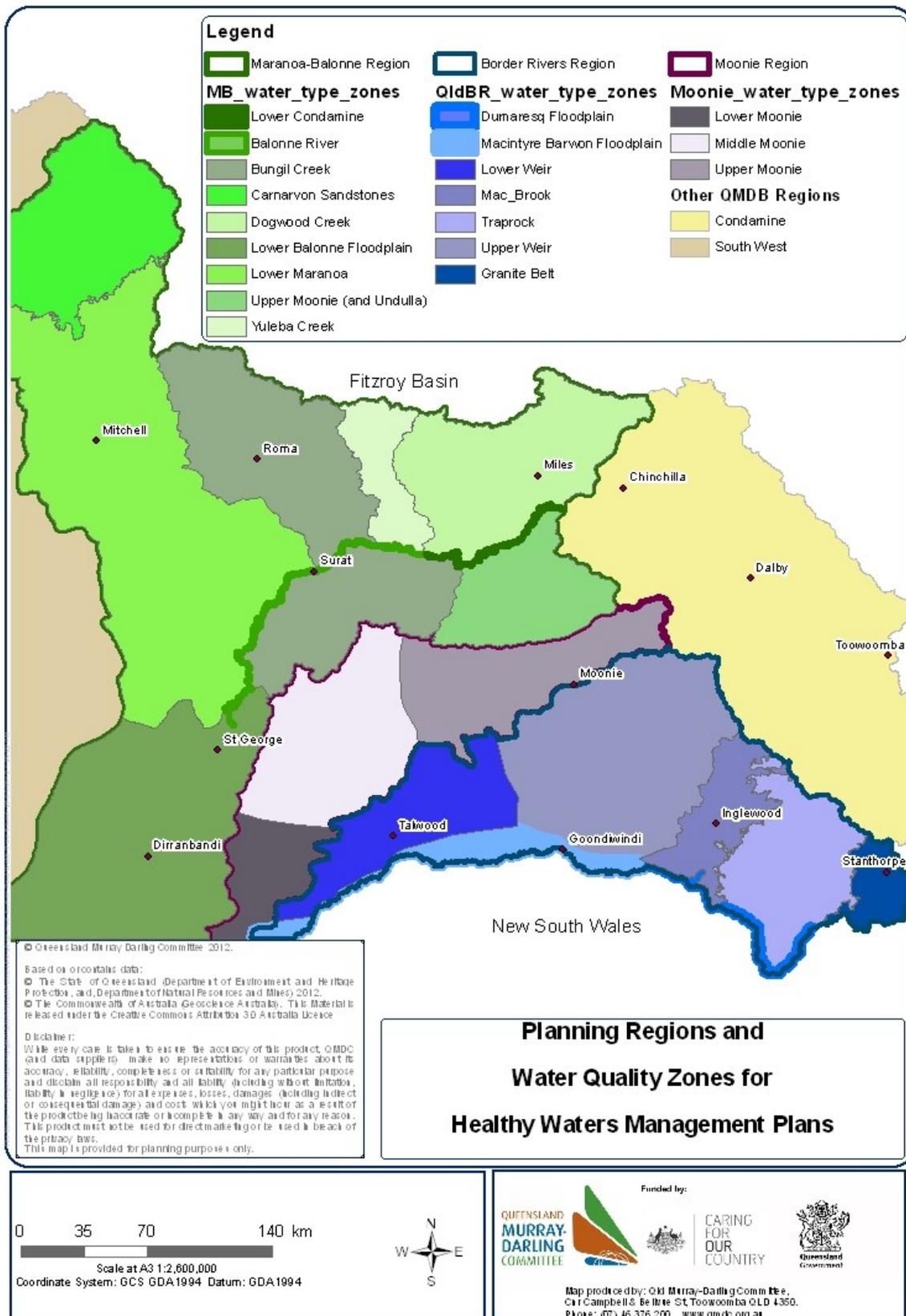
It was found that all the listed EVs apply to waters in each zone. However, the consultation and survey responses have allowed the identification of a shorter list of draft “key values” for surface water and groundwater in each zone.

Threats to values have been identified including biophysical concerns associated with land management and community capacity concerns relating to information management and capacity to change.

These draft EVs are now available for public consideration and feedback is encouraged to refine them. During the review period, work will be undertaken to collate available data from various sources to establish a reference condition for waters in the region.

This will inform the development of local water quality guidelines to measure the degree to which EVs are being protected. These will be documented under Water Quality Objectives in the pending HWMPs.

HWMPs should be completed in June 2013 and will include draft EVs, community consultation information, draft water quality guidelines and management responses to address water quality issues.



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For more information please refer to the Healthy Waters Management Plan factsheet and the QMDC Draft Environmental Values and Community Consultation Report on the QMDC website at www.qmdc.org.au.

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