

# Burnett River Catchment

## Catchment Information

### Description

Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	33248
% Gauged	98
Mean Discharge Yr (km <sup>3</sup> )	1.15
Rainfall (mm)	763
Runoff (mm/m <sup>2</sup> )	35
Runoff/Rainfall Ratio	5

### Land Use

Population	59284
Clearing (km <sup>2</sup> )	23750
% Cleared	71
Area under Grazing (km <sup>2</sup> )	27944
Area under Sugar (km <sup>2</sup> )	231
Area under Horticulture (km <sup>2</sup> )	75

### Pesticide Application

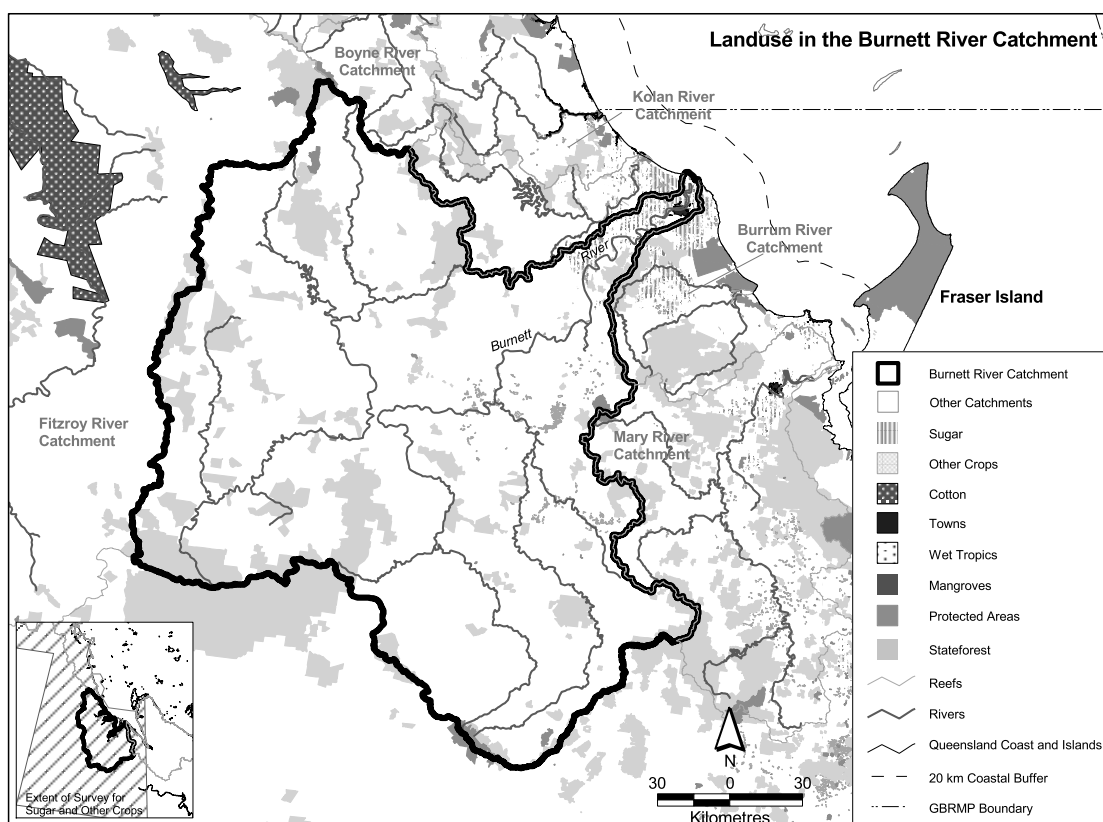
(Kg Active Ingredient/Yr)

Atrazine	8169
Diuron	3445
2-4D	1028
Chlorpyrifos	5220
MEMC	109

## Catchment Targets

	1850 T/yr	Current T/yr	Current T/ km <sup>3</sup>	ratio	2011 % Red'n	2011 T/yr Target	2011 T/ km <sup>3</sup> Target
Sediment Export	8000	728607	633913	91.1	50	364304	316957
Total N Export	281	1244	1082	4.4	33	833	725
Total P Export	14	272	237	19.4	50	136	119

Data Confidence Index = 1



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The Burnett River catchment covers an area of 33248 km<sup>2</sup>. Grazing is the dominant land use occupying approximately 27944 km<sup>2</sup>. Other land uses include 231 km<sup>2</sup> of sugarcane and 75 km<sup>2</sup> of horticulture. State forest and timber reserves occupy 4874 km<sup>2</sup> and protected areas cover 148 km<sup>2</sup>. Sediment and total phosphorus export are classified as high risk and total nitrogen as medium risk in the Burnett River Catchment.

### *Issues in the catchment:*

- Grazing lands have been extensively cleared and sown with improved pasture.
- Flood plains contain intensively fertilised cropping, predominantly sugar cane.
- Approximately 71% of the catchment has been cleared mostly for grazing.
- Soil areas are susceptible to erosion and flooding which has caused severe sheet and rill erosion in some areas.
- Less than 0.5% of the catchment is within protected areas.
- Cultivation mainly occurs on better drained, sloping and fertile soils.
- Native pasture decline has occurred.
- Salinity is a problem which is associated with high watertables on cultivated lands.
- Salt water intrusion to coastal aquifers has occurred from overuse of ground water.
- Medium contribution of nutrient and pesticides.
- Irrigation infrastructure (such as dams, weirs, channels) threatens existing fisheries through siltation of the Burnett River below the barrage and restriction of fish movement.
- Proximity to significant seagrass beds and dugong habitat.
- Changes to habitat and land usage in the catchment have brought about changes to fauna species.

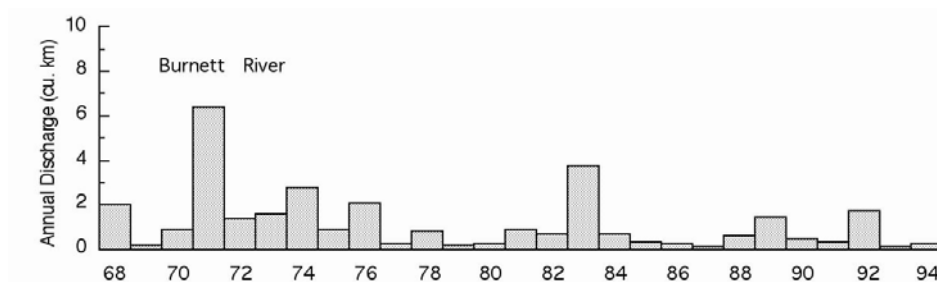


Figure 30. Water discharge patterns in the Burnett River.