



Fitzroy Mine Water Discharges

Capricorn Conservation Council believes that the current level of mine water discharges into the flooded Fitzroy system is of minimal environmental concern, based on available monitoring data

Michael McCabe, CCC Coordinator said today, “While there are currently 18 coal mines in the Fitzroy catchment with permits to release water into streams, we are satisfied that the monitoring regime shows conductivity levels (saltiness) to be well within environmentally acceptable limits. We accept that it is preferable for water to be discharged before it becomes more contaminated, and when stream flow rates ensure high dilution levels.”

“CCC is however concerned that the proposed massive expansion of coal mining could eventually overwhelm the river system’s capacity to dilute mine water to below environmentally harmful limits,” Mr McCabe said.

Mr McCabe said, “While land management practices have been improving we are more concerned with the flood carrying a huge sediment load to the Great Barrier Reef. This silt washed from our landscape, depletes our thin topsoils and carries residues of pesticides and fertilizer.”

“Our scientific understanding, monitoring systems and regulatory frameworks are improving, but we need to do much more to ensure a healthy river system and everything that depends on it are not permanently harmed,” Mr McCabe said.
