

How to get involved in North East Waterwatch

It's easy to get involved in Water Quality monitoring.

Step 1: Contact your Waterwatch Coordinator

Our Coordinators help to set up and support Waterwatch groups in the North East region. Waterwatch will help get you started and provide ongoing support in the form of resources, training and practical advice for your monitoring program. We will also give your group access to technical manuals, quality assurance protocols and data management tools.

2: Who else can be involved?

Waterwatch aims to create community awareness of water quality issues by involving all members of the community and by forming partnerships between the Waterwatch Group and water authorities, local councils, businesses and industry.

You may wish to approach other community, conservation, environmental, landcare and water activity / sporting groups to become involved or provide support.

3: Where will you monitor?

Most new Waterwatch projects focus on a particular area of a waterway, usually a spot that members are interested in, or which is easily accessible. The advantage of this approach is that local people know their area, and can identify problems and implement solutions.

You may want to discuss any potential site with your regional Waterwatch Coordinator, relevant government agencies or local conservation groups. You will need to check how safe your planned water monitoring site is (especially if children will be monitoring). If you need to cross private land to access a site, you will need permission from the landholders.

4: Monitoring Process

Groups need to decide on aims, methods, equipment, training and data interpretation. Gaining knowledge about the catchment and water quality management in the region is a good first step in establishing the monitoring goals of your group.

You may wish to determine:

- Who is responsible for water quality in your catchment
- If regular monitoring occurs and who conducts it
- What water quality issues are of most concern to your community
- The impact of invasive weeds, bank erosion and pollution on your waterway
- What (if anything) is currently being done to improve water quality
- Locations of remnant vegetation which could provide seed for replanting eroded banks

Most groups begin by establishing the status of their catchment, and over time determine if water quality is improving or declining. From this base, groups can then expand to tackle a more complex monitoring *project by developing a [monitoring plan](#) with Waterwatch staff.*