

Waterwatch

2018 Waterwatch Water Quality Site Summary Report Site Name and Description

ME_YMR112 Merri Creek, upstream of St Georges Rd Bridge, Fitzroy North.
Monitors: Friends of Merri Creek Stream Team

To look at further water quality data for this site visit the [Waterwatch online database](#)

Objectives

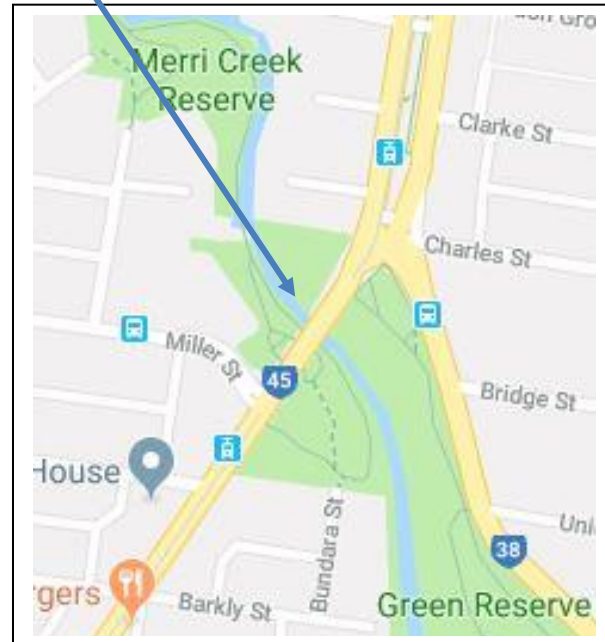
- Track the health of the creek over time
- Identify potential pollution source point(s)

Monthly Parameters

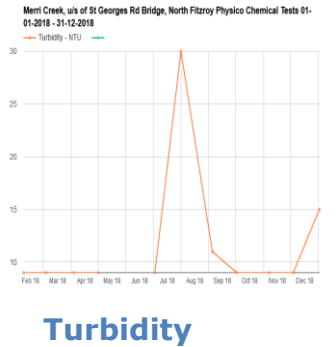
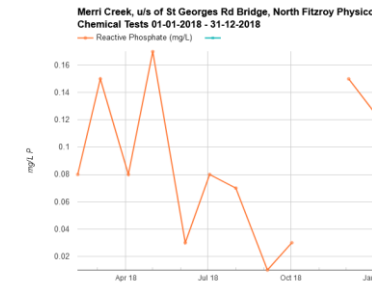
- Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen
- pH
- Electro conductivity (salinity)
- Turbidity
- Reactive Phosphate
- Ammonium
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

Site Introduction

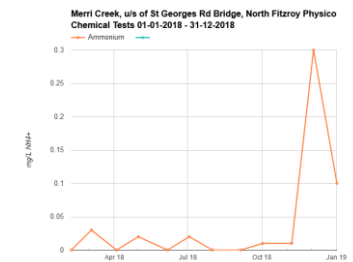
The Merri Creek runs from north of Wallan to the Yarra River at Dight's Falls. In the urban areas it is highly degraded and the upper reaches are threatened by urban growth. The sampling site is in the inner northern suburbs.



Reactive Phosphate



Turbidity



Ammonium

In 2018 the most significant event was the high turbidity during heavy rain events throughout 2018. These events resulted in the creek turning a light brown colour for many weeks. This colour indicated that the sediment was coming from the Kalkallo Creek area near Craigieburn. Further investigation by [MCMC](#) showed that Kalkallo Creek was the source of the high turbidity and that the likely cause was inadequate erosion controls on development sites.

Phosphate levels were frequently high due to input from stormwater runoff.

Ammonia was usually low except for November where a high spike indicated recent sewage pollution in the creek.

The poor water quality was also confirmed by the aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling with SIGNAL scores ranging between 2.04 and 3.21 which is well below the [SEPP guidelines](#). (State of the Environment Protection Policy – Waters – set by the Victorian Government).