



Community Groundwater Monitoring

What is Groundwater Monitoring?

It's about local people caring for groundwater systems. Groundwater and surface water are fundamentally interconnected. In fact, it is difficult to separate the two because they feed each other. As part of the water cycle, groundwater moves from areas of recharge to areas of discharge, such as rivers and springs. Community groups and individuals can check groundwater depth and quality to build up a picture of the health of their local groundwater resources.

Why Monitor Groundwater?

Regular monitoring is important as it can identify existing problems, track changes over time and can monitor water availability and suitability for its intended use eg. drinking, irrigating or for livestock.

The quality of groundwater may change over time, changes can go unnoticed as the water may look, smell and taste the same. Monitoring can assist you in making informed decisions about your water and how you use it.

How Often Should I Test My Groundwater?

Monitoring should occur over a number of months or years in accordance with an agreed plan (methodology) and the observations and results should be recorded so they can be shared.

Private bores should be tested for water quality a minimum of once per year, whilst groundwater depth should be monitored monthly.

How Can I Test My Standing Groundwater Level?

Groundwater level monitoring examines how local groundwater levels responds to different recharge and extracting rates during the year as demand for groundwater changes. To measure standing groundwater level we use a plover. This device is a measuring tape to which a weighted *plover* is attached. The plover is lowered into the bore until the sound of the plover entering the water is heard – the measurement on the tape is then recorded.



Where Can I Get My Groundwater Quality Tested?

Contact a certified laboratory to conduct a basic water analysis or alternatively you can get a more detailed analysis to detect pesticides and chemicals. Discuss which option best suits with the chosen Laboratory.

NTEL (Northern Territory Environmental Laboratories)

Water and Soil sample analysis
P.O. Box 1382 Berrimah NT 0828
www.ntel.com.au
Ph: (08) 89470510

Department of Resources

Water chemistry analysis
<http://www.nt.gov.au/d/>
Ph: (08) 8999 2196



Further Information:

Water Resources Division

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport

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