



Environment Institute of  
Australia and New Zealand Inc.

## ABSTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

---

# **Waterways management: incorporating social and cultural values**

Helen Ross, Sylvie Shaw, Natalie Jones, Katherine Witt, Breanna Pinner, David Rissik and James Udy

The University of Queensland

Australia

Helen.Ross@uq.edu.au

### *Abstract:*

People's values towards the environment, and especially waterways, are seldom studied, and incorporating them in management is relatively rare. This project compares non-Indigenous and Aboriginal values towards the rivers of South East Queensland and Moreton Bay, using a framework of values identified by Stephen Kellert (1996, 2012). The study contributes to the monitoring and evaluation of Moreton Bay Marine Park, and proposed inclusion of social monitoring in Healthy Waterways monitoring for rivers and Moreton Bay. The analysis of values includes 60 semi-structured interviews with non-Indigenous people (30 from the upper catchments, and 30 from the lower catchments and Moreton Bay), and 12 individual interviews and two focus groups with Aboriginal Traditional Custodians. The study shows that South East Queenslanders are passionate about their waterways, and hold diverse values toward them. Interestingly, the values are widely shared: people hold several each, and a number of them are held by over half of those interviewed. There many commonalities, but also are subtle differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and non-Aboriginal people from the upper and lower catchments. Recognising this diverse set of values brings new insights for the social aspects of environmental management, which until now has focused on an apparent competition between resource use (utilitarian values) and conservation (involving moralistic and ecological values). The seven other values held by the public suggest new ways of enjoining public support for managing waterways, and new ways of managing the waterways to maintain people's very strong affiliation with them.