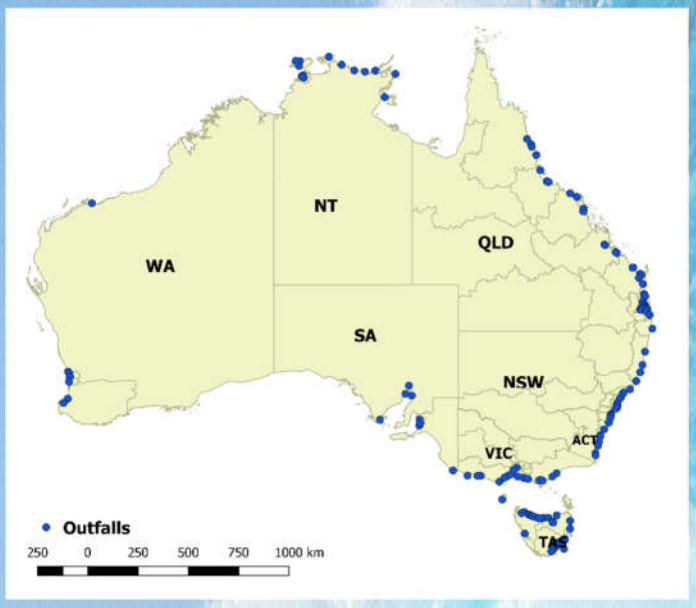
THE NATIONAL OUTFALL DATABASE (NOD)

National Outfall Database

www.nod.org.au

COMMUNITY REPORT JUNE 2017

For the first time Australia now has a publicly accessible outfall database, developed by the Clean Ocean Foundation in collaboration with the States and Northern Territory and supported by the National Environmental Science Programme - Marine Biodiversity Hub. The goal of NOD is to facilitate cross-institutional data sharing among federal, state, local government and the community to integrate infrastructure planning and decision making of sewage effluent impacts on marine environment.



Outfall Facts:

1,380 GIGALITRES The volume of effluent discharged annually into the Australian aquatic environment.

274 OUTFALLS On the Australian shoreline, of these 149 discharge into coastal waters and 125 into estuarine environments.

2 BATHTUBS Of effluent for every Australian every day.

Outfalls *in this summary are defined as a discharge point or outlet of sewage effluent into a body of water including rivers, seas, and estuaries.*

The NOD Project seeks to:

- Develop a publicly accessible national outfall database to rank outfalls (and sewerage treatment systems) by relative pollutant impacts.
- Enhance communication between government, water authorities, and communities.
- Use **citizen science** to assist with understanding pressures on the marine environment and health impacts on recreational users.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

- Communities will become informed of the potential water quality impacts of sewage outfalls and have the opportunity to be proactive stewards of the marine environment.
- Water Authorities will benefit from further engaging with their community. The NOD will improve shared understanding of current sewerage infrastructure, its benefit in treating sewage, and inform community expectations.
- Pressures on the marine environment can be reduced through nationally consistent and comparable scientific information on the quality of sewage discharged by outfall. Policy makers can use this data to prioritize decisions on sewerage system development and outfall reform.
- Water treatment suppliers and recycled water users will have access to detailed information on the location as well as composition of sewage for recycling purposes, useful for industrial, agricultural, and/or residential development

Marine Biodiversity Hub
National Environmental Science Programme
Australian Government
National Environmental Science Programme
clean ocean foundation

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	Number of outfalls*	Total outfall volume (ML)**	Total nitrogen load (Tonne)**	Total phosphorous load (Tonne)**	Liaising agency
Victoria (84%)	17	322,693	3,811	2,784	Water authorities
New South Wales (32%)	28	541,349	3,767	1,064	Local governments and Water authorities
Queensland (78%)	51	284,965	1,215	621	Local governments
Western Australia (100%)	31	133,724	2,362	861	Water Corporation
South Australia (100%)	10	59,647	604	196	SA Water Corporation
Tasmania (100%)	41	47,791	1,325	297	TasWater
Northern Territory***	14	-	-	-	Power and Water Corporation

* Coastal outfalls
** The load calculation is based on annual averages of total nitrogen and phosphorus and the annual sum of total outfall volume in data reported (%) 2015.
*** NT data awaiting validation

FUTURE RESEARCH

- Estimating total pollution loads from outfalls – by working with researchers, such as SewAus – University of Queensland.
- How recreational users receive notification of pollution events in different regions of coastal Australia.
- Impact of pollution on coastline pilot programs in:
    - Gold Coast – impact on mangroves
    - North Sydney – impact on recreational users of bypass events at Warriewood
    - Recreational activities research occurring near outfalls and related issues through online survey. Participation available through nod.org.au or cleanocean.org
- Engaging coastal communities interested in researching the impact of outfalls on their marine environment.

RECREATIONAL USERS SURVEY
Have your say at www.nod.org.au

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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