

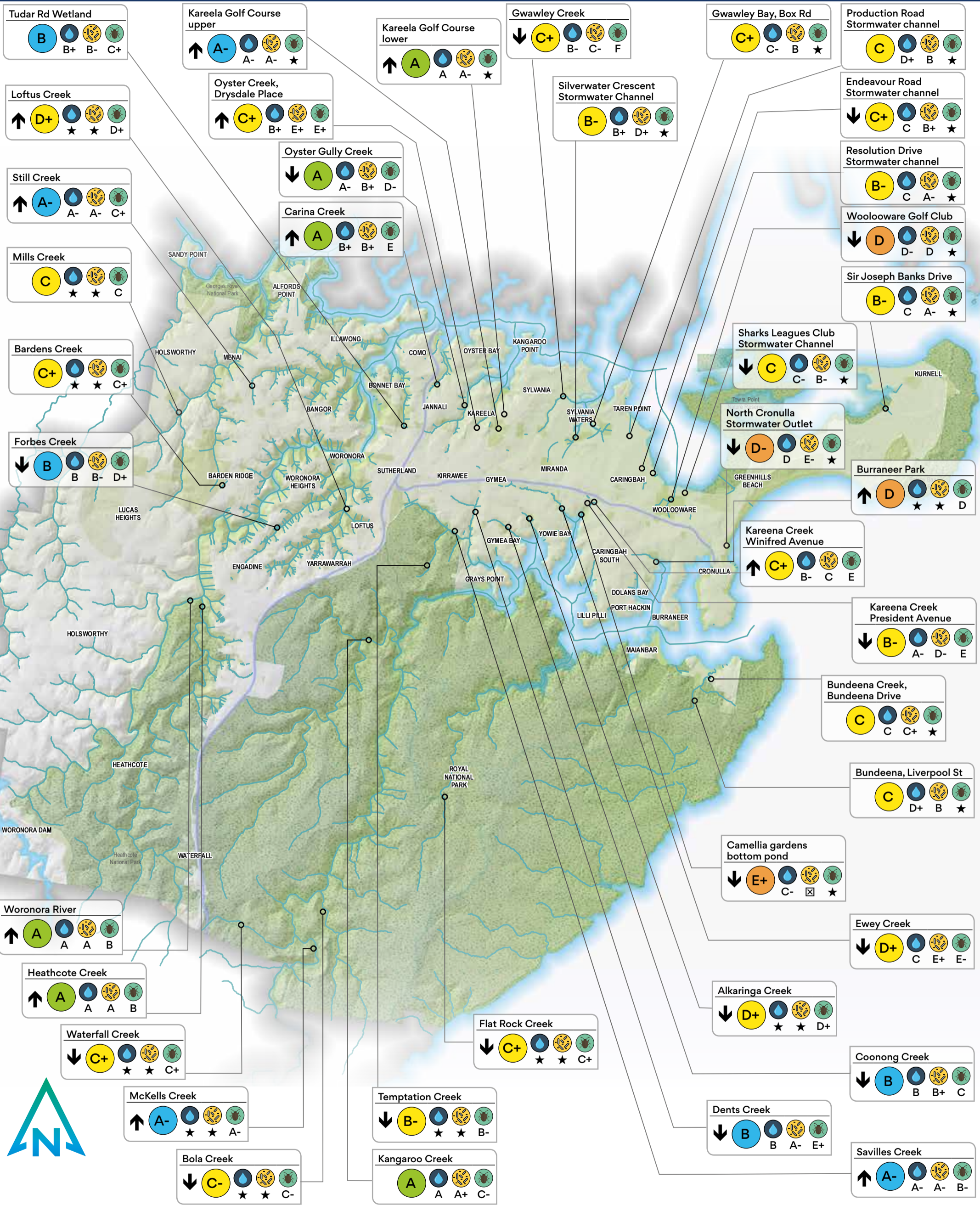
SUTHERLAND SHIRE

2018/19
SUTHERLAND SHIRE

**WATERWAYS
HEALTH
REPORT CARD**



WATERWAY HEALTH GRADES



Compared to last year

Waterbugs

Site name

Site Grade

Physical and chemical condition

Bacterial contamination

This report card provides a visual snapshot of the condition of waterways in and around the shire for 2018/19.

The grades are calculated from council's Strategic Water Monitoring Program (SWaMP). The alphabetical grades represent the 2018/19 result for that particular waterway.

WATER QUALITY GRADES	
A+ to A	Excellent
A- to B	Good
B- to D+	Fair
D to F-	Poor
Fail ☒	Degraded
★	Not sampled

ABOUT THIS REPORT CARD

Community surveys have told council that residents want catchments managed effectively to improve the cleanliness, health and biodiversity of the Shire's waterways.

Council monitors our waterways through its Strategic Water Monitoring Program (SWaMP). In 2017/18 council expanded the traditional physical and chemical SWaMP analysis to include freshwater macroinvertebrates (waterbugs) as an additional indicator of stream health.

This report card provides a visual snapshot of the condition of the shire's waterways for 2018/19. The alphabetical grades provide a familiar rating system to aid in the interpretation of scientific information. To understand how the grades are determined please see SWaMP's Objectives, Sampling Methodology and Data Analysis document, which can be found on Council's water quality webpage sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/Outdoors/Environment/Waterways/Water-Quality



Sampling Loftus Creek



Collecting waterbugs



Sediment contamination



Detergent contamination

PRESSURES FACING URBAN CREEKS

Creeks flowing through urban catchments generally suffer from increases in sediment, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous), metals and rubbish. They also experience a reduction in biological diversity and habitat complexity.

Urban catchments have roads, roofs, driveways and other types of impervious surfaces that direct rainwater, usually via a piped network, into local creeks. This process bypasses water's natural pathway and introduces the contaminants found on impervious surfaces into local waterways.

MANAGING URBAN CREEKS

Sutherland Shire Council has installed more than 250 devices to improve stormwater water quality, including constructed wetlands and gross pollutant traps. Council is committed to its extensive ongoing creek rehabilitation and maintenance programs using specialist contractors and local volunteer bush care groups. We are currently developing a new catchment and waterways management strategy framework as part of our 2017-2021 delivery program, this document will be the foundation for Council to sustainably manage the Shire's catchments and waterways.

October 2019



Forbes Creek



Damselfly - *Austroargiolestes isabellae*