

**MAP 12 – BIOLOGICAL HEALTH OF RIVERS (AUSRIVAS) FOR THE
NORTHERN NRM REGION**

NRM North Map Description	
NAME	BIOLOGICAL HEALTH OF RIVERS (AUSRIVAS) FOR THE NORTHERN NRM REGION
Date Source/s	AUSRIVAS: Northern Waterway Assessment (May 2007)
Description and Uses Summary	<p>AUSRIVAS (Australian River Assessment System) is a rapid prediction system used to assess the biological health of Australian rivers. AUSRIVAS was developed under the National River Health Program (NRHP) by the Federal Government in 1994, in response to growing concern in Australia for maintaining ecological values.</p> <p>The goal of the National River Health Program is to provide the information needed to reverse the degradation of inland waters. The objectives of the National River Health Program are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a sound information base on which to establish environmental flows; 2. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the health of inland waters, identify key areas for the maintenance of aquatic and riparian health and biodiversity, and identify stressed inland waters; 3. Consolidate and apply techniques for improving the health on inland waters, particularly those identified as stressed; and 4. Develop community, industry, and management expertise in sustainable water resources management and raise awareness of environmental health issues and needs of our rivers. <p>AUSRIVAS has two assessment tools, bio-assessment and physical assessment. These correspond with rapid biological assessment protocols and rapid geomorphic, physical and chemical assessment protocols respectively.</p> <p>AUSRIVAS samples sites against reference values. Results are recorded as shown on the map.</p> <p>AUSRIVAS will form the basis of ongoing national reporting obligations on river ecological health in the region.</p>