



## personal profile

# Lauren Thorburn

senior aquatic ecologist & manager, scientific services

B.Sc. (Hons I)

Since starting with **frc environmental** in 2006, Lauren has developed a remarkable record in the field, laboratory and project management. Joining **frc environmental** from the then Environmental Protection Agency's Coastal Planning Unit, Lauren has a valuable breadth of experience covering both research and management.

Lauren has well developed skills in aquatic environmental assessment, monitoring and management, and has worked across freshwater, estuarine and marine environments. She has extensive recent experience in designing and implementing aquatic ecological surveys and monitoring programs in Australia and internationally, and is particularly skilled at interpreting water quality objectives, predicting the impacts of acidification, and in assessing and mitigating impacts of waste water discharge. Lauren has a strong understanding of the implementation and implications of the current ANZECC & ARMCANZ and 'Ocean Disposal' guidelines, and of their underlying ecological principles and processes.

Lauren has a passion for macroinvertebrate ecology and taxonomy. She completed the AusRivAS accreditation course in 2004, gaining a high distinction for each module. Although spending less time at the microscope today, Lauren continues to lead and inspire **frc environmental's** ecological laboratory.



“Lauren has extensive recent experience working with the mining industry, both in Queensland and internationally...”



freshwater

estuarine

marine



## lauren thorburn profile

“Lauren has served as an expert witness before the Planning and Environment Court and regularly contributes to the community consultation process of major projects.”

Lauren has advanced GIS skills, and has applied these to the mapping of ecosystem components, especially aquatic and wetland plant communities. She has extensive experience in interpreting local, state and federal legislation and regulation relevant to environmental impact assessment and environmental monitoring programs.

Lauren has extensive recent experience working with the mining industry, both nationally and internationally, supporting clients that seek to enhance their environmental reputation through the rigorous and practical design and monitoring of altered hydraulic regimes, habitat change and the development of compensatory habitat.

Lauren has also managed a number of recent studies supporting the assessment and environmental management of major water infrastructure projects including: Wyaralong Dam, Traveston Crossing Dam, Nathan Dam, Connors River Dam and the Fitzroy Weir.

Lauren has served as an expert witness before the Planning and Environment Court, is an invited speaker at forums focusing on best practice environmental management, and regularly contributes to the community consultation process of major projects.

### key achievements

- Detailed knowledge of the ecology of tropical and temperate freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems
- Highly skilled in experimental design and data analysis
- Detailed understanding of environmental legislation and policies
- Lead or provided specialist technical input to the aquatic ecology and / or water quality components of over 20 major EISs and EMPs
- Highly developed skills in critical thought and innovation, with the ability to think laterally and respond practically ‘on the fly’
- Simplified complex results of studies in easy to understand oral presentations to community groups, scientific peers and industry
- AusRivAS accredited