

Chemicals in bush tucker

The Department of Environment and local aboriginal people have been working together to set up a program to test:

- Quality of water
- If any chemicals in bush animals: kangaroos, goannas
- If any chemicals in fish: barramundi, catfish, bony bream, longtom, black bream, glassfish, mullet
- If any chemicals in plants: bush cucumber, lily pads and roots, passion fruit vine

PLANTS

All plants and fruit were collected by hand. Some fruit we couldn't collect because wrong time of season.



ANIMALS

Animals collected were goannas and kangaroos which required a permit from CALM to kill native animals and we also needed a professional shooter.

FISH

All fish samples collected with fishing lines and gill nets. We had to get permits from CALM and Department of Fisheries to use gill nets.



WHAT WE DID WITH SAMPLES

We took 150g from each sample and sent them to get tested in a lab in Sydney.

RESULTS

- No chemicals were found in any plants, fish or wallabies.
- One of the goannas caught in a drain had some low levels of DDE in it.
- DDE is no longer used on farms.
- We plan to continue testing at other times of the year.