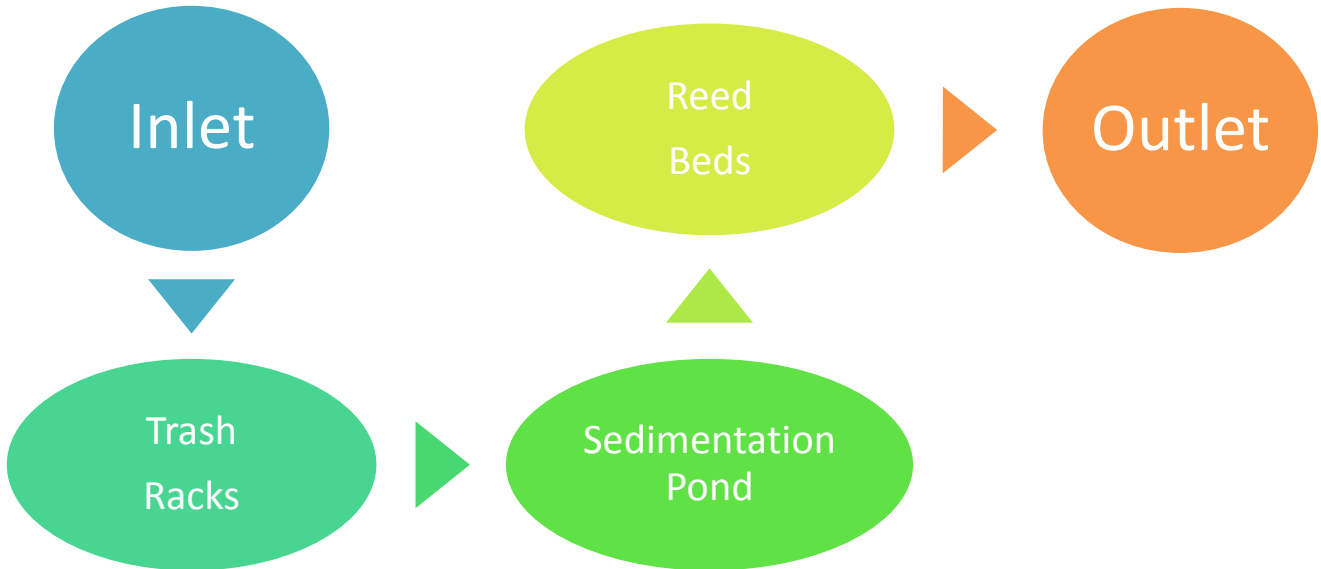




# Does the wetland clean the water?

The main reason the wetland was built was to reduce local flooding by catching stormwater but does it help to clean this water as well?

When water enters the wetland it passes through a few different structures.



Look around the wetland and see if you can find these structures. Each one is designed to help clean the water in some way but how do you think they work?



Match the name of each structure to the way you think it cleans up the water.

Structure	Cleans the water by...
Trash racks	Slowing down the water so any sand and silt can settle to the bottom
Sedimentation Ponds	Acting as a physical filter and absorbing chemicals out of the water
Reed Beds	Catching large items like rubbish and leaves so they can't flow into the wetland



Because of these structures, what do you think will happen to the quality of the water as it moves from the inlet to the outlet?

*get better*

*stay the same*

*get worse*

You have just made a **prediction** so now you need to **test** it to see if you were right!





Testing the water is a way of observing water quality. The wetland manager will show you how to do the tests and then you can record your results.

We can test water quality by testing

- the amount of dirt in the water → this is called **turbidity**
- the amount of salts in the water → this is called **salinity**

## Results table

What to test	What should it be?	Inlet result	Outlet result	Which is better?
Turbidity (cm)	more than 15 cm			<i>Inlet / Outlet</i>
Salinity (ECU's)	less than 800ECU			<i>Inlet / Outlet</i>



Was your prediction about how water quality would change right? *Yes / No*

Does the wetland actually clean up the water? *Yes / No*



You have just investigated the quality of the Urrbrae Wetland water but what can cause water quality to be reduced? Use the props provided to talk about some of the things that could threaten the wetland, its water and its inhabitants. How could you reduce these threats?

Draw a picture that shows some threats to the wetland and how they can be overcome.

