Urban Nutrients and Pollution Reduction in Moreton Bay Workshop
7 July 2016
Facilitated/Interactive Discussion Notes

SESSION 2 – NUTRIENT ABATEMENT DISCUSSION
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Workshop aims:
1) Problems in your Catchments
2) Solutions
3) Prioritise

Problems in your Catchments:
- Cabbage Tree Creek – Sediment (pathogens, heavy metals, urban drainage), pollution and not so much erosion
- General awareness of issues
- Sedimentation in lower reaches which is relatively recent → trees → grasses
  - Is rehabilitation contributing to issue in places?
  - Deep holes gone – need understanding of why
  - Need structure in the creeks
- Council technical approach – make water drain faster over hard surfaces
- Role of submerged plants – declining
- Mangroves management ad hoc – nutrient sinks?
  - Council rules against mangroves-tidal resilience (Queensland Urban design manual impact?)
- Urban functioning ecosystems – restoration needed and is connected to nutrient solutions
- Fishway barriers: causeways, pipes, cold water from dams
- Drains versus waterways – drains form point source
- Trunk infrastructure charging not including in stream works
- Floodplains diminishing – need them back
- Greenfield developments (and sewage over flows).

Solutions:
- Money from licencing diverted to this work (Policy now exists, but!)
- Research and development about Nitrogen and Phosphorus is limited for local level, therefore need more monitoring at local level - citizen science monitoring program at urban group level connected to Ecosystem Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) work
- Look at wet weather overflows because community is happy with point source – get focus moved!
- Remove nutrients/pollution at low flow
- Clarify outcomes from environmental projects – impact investment, Department of Main Roads example – Oxbow
- Less hard infrastructure, more green infrastructure through better informing consultants based on evidence – this takes time
- Agreed best practice knowledge base for all to access and inform Projects/contacts/data (e.g. Sydney Harbour and Catchment Plans)
- Riparian restoration best practice guide
- Develop a “Community of Practice” and training program for contractors and procurement people
- Bring development industry along – social licensing from local groups
- Academic coordination – directed at solving these issues and industryBridge gap between science and local Project
Organise scholarships to direct research better and more practical programs for undergraduates and graduates and fundraising

Update values and objectives so we can set targets

What is “healthy” and what is the benchmark? – is it an “A”, “B” or what; and at what scale?

Targets come after knowledge is gathered/understood
  - Are needed geographically and functionally of creek level

THEMES (from the discussion):
  - Organising knowledge and sharing it
  - Improving practice
  - Setting targets
  - Investment! Programs and market base opportunities.

SESSION 3 – THE COMMUNITY AND RESEARCH DISCUSSION

What plans do we already have?
  - B4C Waterways Plan 2011
  - Bulimba Creek and sub-plans – Fire Management Plan
  - Rest covered by plans developed in the 1990s/2000s
  - Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd has Land Use Plan 2016
  - Healthy Waterways Plan – Healthy Waterways Strategy 2001
  - Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) – 2015-17 (Mid Brisbane/Lockyer/Pumicestone)
  - SEQ NRM Plan 2016
  - Erosion and Sediment Control Strategy
  - Cabbage Tree Creek 2014
  - Brisbane Flood Study and Natural Areas Management Plans
  - Invasive Species Plans – under transformation 2017 end date
  - Planning Schemes and Local Area Plans (LAPs)
  - Fish Passage data
  - All need refreshing and specific jobs to be identified and new initiatives like carbon and integration
  - Need to be extended into tidal/Bay area (Monitoring Program/DNRM research) and formal screening
  - Citizen Science to be worked into Plans.

What monitoring?
  - EHMP Framework as the basis for monitoring and better engagement at all scales
  - Use values at creek level to get messages out and monitor
  - Add additional sites in each creek
  - Waterwatch data, MangroveWatch, SeagrassWatch, Platypus Watch, Glider Network, Quoll Watch, Queensland Wader Study Group
  - Bring all existing monitoring together and make it accessible: Catchment Plans to guide its use
  - Funding Program: water value survey training needs to go into Brisbane work!

How do we work together?
  - Some form of governance to bring all players together to share, learn and improve and implement
  - BCN for now: inclusive forums
  - Create “special events” shorter and focused for councilors, water industry leaders and key decision makers and consultants (Member for Mt Coot-tha) – maybe Catchment based
  - Celebrate all the great achievement of Catchment Groups
  - Highlight successful collaborations in each Catchment: Bus Tour
  - Acknowledge importance of science (we know enough now) to relife agenda
  - Vision is great and wording needs a lot of work.