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Brisbane Catchments Network

"A healthy and biodiverse Brisbane"

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

SESSION 2 – NUTRIENT ABATEMENT DISCUSSION
PAUL MCDONALD
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.