



10th June, 2007

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SCRUB ROAD PROPOSAL – EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Bulimba Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee (B4C) is a multi award winning local Catchment and Landcare group which operates as a volunteer based, not for profit community group.

Our aim is to protect and rehabilitate greenspaces, including bushlands, waterways and wetlands and the native species that are part of them. We also support and promote ecologically sustainable development.

We also work to involve people in knowing and caring for their own natural environment through our campaigns, school program and on-ground assistance in rehabilitating our parks and natural areas.

We see the community and their environment as valuable and work to protect the rights of both. We have active environmental programs in Mansfield, Holland Park, Mt Petrie, Tingalpa and Hemmant State Schools and Mansfield, Mt Gravatt, Cavendish Rd Highs.

Scrub Rd proposal . . .

1. The bushland has high conservation status for habitat and biodiversity on its own.
2. It is rich in wildlife – two wallaby and two glider species is special, along with koalas, many birds and all other urban based species.
3. Wildlife Corridor – Koala Bushlands to Bulimba Creek Corridor is Regionally significant. The corridor goes right through this land.
4. The State Government has recognized the importance of the corridor by planning three wildlife movement underpasses – near Wecker Rd, Cribb Rd and Oakley St at Carindale.
5. The land is in private hands under Emerging Community Area Designation. It is vulnerable to a large housing development if the road proceeded with no safeguards put in place. None have been agreed to at this stage.
6. The Scrub Rd cuts across the land without adequate wildlife movement plans. Example only one (1) underpass 1.2m x 1.2m is planned. Native animals won't use this to any effect. 2.8 x 3m is the desired size, with at least two underpasses. The gliders and possums need rope ladder infrastructure to cross safely.

7. The loss of bushland to housing is greater with a road on this private land. We have nominated areas to be acquired by Council through its Green Levy and for protection under a local planning scheme, but no actions have been agreed to.
8. The impact on bushland and the corridor will be significant and will see the decline of the wildlife of the area. If wildlife gets isolated and habitat fragmented it is just a matter of time before it is lost. Some will survive, but most cannot.
9. Your Catchment Group is fighting for the last remnants of bushland between Belmont Hills and Wecker Rd. There are three main parcels all under development threat. Acquisition submissions have been put to Council.

B4C and its network are currently negotiating environmental protection and compensation for our local bushlands and waterways.

Apart from housing development threats to our shrinking bushlands, the following major infrastructure developments are being negotiated with the Catchment Committee:

- Western Recycled Water Pipeline (40m wide) – north-south entire Bulimba Creek corridor.
- Gateway Motorway Expansion – also north-south Wishart to Doboy.
- Port of Brisbane Motorway – Gateway Bridge to Lytton.
- South-Eastern Busway – City to Cleveland along Old Cleveland Rd.
- Trunk Sewer line – Runcorn to Carindale – along Bulimba Creek.
- Kuraby to Altandi Rail expansion – Beenleigh Rd lost 1200 trees.
- Minnippi Golf and housing plan – loss of public owned parkland and Sporting lands to a developer.

In Summary:

1. Our last greenspaces are at risk, we only have 17% under public ownership in Brisbane. Housing development and infrastructure are the main threats.
2. Brisbane's wildlife and plants (biodiversity) is second only to the Wet Tropics.
3. Our lifestyle depends on our connection and protection of healthy and functioning urban bushlands, waterways and wetlands. We value them highly.
4. Scrub Road proposal is a symptom of "development at all costs". All we are asking for is an orderly planning process based on Ecologically Sustainable Development. This road plan poses more problems than it claims to solve.

Compiled by Wayne Cameron
(Bulimba Creek Catchment Manager)