



Cattai Creek Subcatchment

The Cattai Creek subcatchment drains significant areas of new and ongoing urban development of Sydney's North West Sector in the upper reaches of Cattai and O'Haras Creeks. Little Cattai Creek is included in this subcatchment but is not a tributary to Cattai Creek having a distinct hydrological catchment. The headwaters and upper reaches of Little Cattai Creek are in near intact condition and Little Cattai Creek is considered to be the most aquatically biodiverse creek in Western Sydney. The clean water contributed to the Hawkesbury River from Little Cattai Creek is extremely important to the health of the Hawkesbury River.

Cattai and O'Haras Creeks are being degraded by increased sedimentation as a result of the upstream urbanisation. Water quality is poor due to stormwater and STP discharges into these major creeks. Woody weeds in the riparian zone pose a serious threat to patches of relatively healthy vegetation. Major woody weeds include Privet and Willows. The hydrology of this subcatchment has been greatly altered due to increased urbanisation and changes to catchment surfaces. This has altered channel form and function and is limiting the potential for recovery. O'Haras Creek was previously a Chain of Ponds that has been transformed by hydrological changes and channel engineering.

Significant community based environment activity is occurring on Cattai Creek with a local Landcare group involved in a privet education and eradication project. A large-scale willow eradication project has also been undertaken on the creek.

Reach Management Recommendations – Cattai Creek Subcatchment

Reach Name	Reach Description	Riparian Land Management Category	Reach Values	Reach Threats	Reach management recommendations (Planning, Education, Works, Monitoring, Institutional)
Cattai R1	Headwaters in Castle Hill to Pitt Town Rd Maraylya	Assisted Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good riparian vegetation • Significant vegetation community (Cumberland Shale Sandstone Transition Forest) • Significant irrigation water supply • Significant community based environment activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modified / engineered channel (localised) • High woody weed invasion (mainly privet) • Aquatic weed outbreaks (Salvinia) • Damaging access (stock and human access at specific points) • Barriers to ecosystem functioning (causeways and road crossings) • Flow extraction • Water quality – STPs and stormwater • Urbanisation – sediment and nutrient issues <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe downstream impact – water quality, siltation, aquatic weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) • Removal/replacement of exotic riparian vegetation (W) • Management of aquatic weeds (P,I,E) • Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land use practices in riparian lands (P,E) • Manage human impacts at public recreation river access points and along foreshores (E,W) • Water quantity / flow management (I) • Water quality / nutrient management (I) • Urban water quality and sediment management (P,W) • Maintain existing community based environment activity (P,E)
Cattai R2	Pitt Town Rd Maraylya to confluence with Hawkesbury River	Assisted Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good riparian vegetation • Wetlands of regional or state significance (SREP 20 Wetlands) • Cattai National Park • Significant vegetation community (Cumberland Shale Sandstone Transition Forest; Turpentine Ironbark Forest) • Popular recreational fishing • Popular non-motor boating • High public recreation access (Cattai National Park, Cattai Bridge Reserve and Mitchell Park) • Identified flagship species (Platypus, Yellow Bellied and Greater Gliders) • Significant irrigation water supply • Significant community based environment activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic weed outbreaks (Salvinia and Senegal Tea) • Damaging access (stock and humans) • Barriers to ecosystem functioning • Flow extraction • Water quality • Urbanisation – sediment and nutrient issues <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe downstream impact – water quality; aquatic weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of aquatic weeds (I,P,W) • Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land use practices in riparian lands (P,E) • Manage human impacts at public recreation river access points and along foreshores (E,W) • Removal/replacement of exotic riparian vegetation (W) • Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) • Riparian wetland management (P,W) • Urban water quality and sediment management (P,I,W) • Rural water quality and sediment management (P,W) • Maintain existing community based environment activity (P,E)
Little Cattai R1	Headwater and gorge down to floodplain wetland section	Conservation (Near Intact outside reserve)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P)

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Little Cattai R2	Floodplain wetland from downstream end of gorge to confluence with Hawkesbury River	Assisted Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good riparian vegetation • Wetlands of regional significance – Broadwater Swamp • Rare or threatened river category - channel wetlands • Significant vegetation community • Popular recreational fishing • Significant irrigation water supply • Flagship species - most aquatically biodiverse creek in Western Sydney, along with Orchard Creek in South Creek catchment – UBBS, Eastern Grey kangaroos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaging access, mainly stock • Poor water quality – nutrients from rural and industrial run off from tributaries with headwaters along ridges e.g Kelly’s Creek • High level of community activity and concern – RAMSAR nomination being considered <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe immediate threat – in headwater - sand mining impacting on base flows and future subdivision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land management practices in riparian lands (E) • Rural water quality and sediment management (W) • Riparian wetland management • Increase community capacity for environmental restoration (E)
O’Haras R1	Headwaters down to Scaly Bark Creek	Assisted Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good riparian vegetation • Significant vegetation community (Sydney Coastal River Flat Forest) • Identified flagship species (Wallabies, Koalas, Platypus, Turpentine Forest) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barriers to ecosystem functioning • Flow extraction • Water quality • Threat from garden escape weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) • Water management - quality and quantity (I,W) • Increase community capacity for environmental restoration (E)
O’Haras R2	Scaly Bark Creek to Cattai Creek including Long Swamp	Assisted Regeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good riparian vegetation • Wetlands of regional significance – Long Swamp. One side currently in single ownership and in good condition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localised modified / engineered channel • Aquatic weed outbreaks • Damaging access – humans, stock (including goats and alpaca), roads and weirs associated with extractive industries (sand and stone), 4WD & rural residential • Barriers to ecosystem functioning - causeways and road crossings, weirs associated with extraction industry • Poor water quality – nutrient and sediment from rural, rural residential and industry run-off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian wetland management • Management of aquatic weeds (P,W) • Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land management practices in riparian lands (E) • Rural water quality and sediment management (W) • Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) • Increase community capacity for environmental restoration (E)

Creeks of Community Concern: Blue Gum Creek, Second Ponds Creek.