

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 11:07 AM
To: '[Vivienne Roberts-Thomson](#)'
Subject: RE: Curlew Creek

Hi Vivienne,

Attached is Version 6 of the Curlew Creek operational maintenance and rehabilitation plan. Excuse the 'Draft' watermark. This is the version that was provided to the state government approval agency (SARA) by Council with their Development Application documents, and which the individual government agencies reviewed and approved.

I have referred the classification issue to [REDACTED] as she has been working on this project with DEHP.

I will keep you informed as I work through detailed planning for implementation of the 'Curlew Creek plan'.

[REDACTED]
From: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson [mailto:gvrthomson@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2015 2:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Cr Lance Hewlett
Subject: Curlew Creek
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for yesterday's update on Curlew Creek. Must say I was surprised to hear Fisheries had approved operational works without any detail.

At the time you mentioned Version 6 of the plan however I can only find Version 5 which we provided feedback on. It would be appreciated if we could please have a copy.

Also, we're keen to progress the reclassification of Curlew Creek as mentioned hereunder. Can either you or Helena provide further information on this process.

Kind Regards
Vivienne Roberts-Thomson
President, Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc
Phone : 32077153; 0411226363

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 6 November 2014 11:58 AM
To: [Vivienne Roberts'thomson](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]

Hi Vivienne.

With regards to the classification of Curlew Creek in WetlandInfo (Queensland Wetlands Program). There is a process now established between Council and QWP for making amendments to the WetlandInfo mapping and classification. This is the process to use for making amendments, but first I

would like to be sure that we understand and agree on (i) the definition for the current classification applied to Curlew Creek wetland; and (ii) proposed amendments to the classification. Proposed mapping and classification amendments are made in a submission to a technical advisory group that advises and supports the QWP officers. The technical advisory group interprets the classification and mapping rules in relation to proposed amendments and makes a decision on changes.

I will be in touch with more information about the QWP mapping and classification of Curlew Creek.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 5 November 2014 12:18 PM

To: 'Vivienne Roberts-Thomson'

Subject: RE: Response to Curlew Creek Operational and Maintenance Plan V5

Vivienne.

Thanks for the comprehensive comments.

I have incorporated your group's feedback into the 'Final draft' plan, as follows:

- Added a new section describing the (ecological) significance of Curlew Creek in the context of Moreton Bay.
- Identified a requirement for acid sulphate soil testing at pre-commencement, with the outcome to determine the necessity for an Acid Sulphate Soils Management Plan;
- Identified that a 'detailed design operational plan' will be produced to guideline implementation of excavation works on-ground. This plan will clearly identify any marine vegetation to be disturbed to facilitate excavation within the channel, measures to protect existing vegetation within the creek channel, and agreed / approved offsets.

Outside of the comments concerning the draft plan, I support the proposition to request the State Government, Queensland Wetlands Program, to revise their classification of Curlew Creek consistent with the documented evidence available.

I will keep you informed as the project progresses.

[REDACTED]

From: Vivienne Roberts-Thomson [<mailto:gvrthomson@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, 30 October 2014 8:07 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Cr Lance Hewlett

Subject: Response to Curlew Creek Operational and Maintenance Plan V5

Dear [REDACTED],

Please find hereunder feedback on the Curlew Creek Operational and Maintenance Plan Version 5. This project presents an exciting opportunity for the community to connect to a waterway that has been devalued over time by weeds, litter and intermittent excavation.

Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc appreciates your willingness to collaborate with others, including specialist organisations like Water by Design to create sound environmental outcomes and at the same time create educational opportunities to showcase the mangroves of Moreton Bay Marine Park, up-close. As mentioned, we requested feedback from Healthy Waterways. Ideally it

would be for a specialist opinion on the perceived drainage “problem.” As you’re aware it has been a busy time and hopefully their comments will soon follow

Here’s hoping the correct diagnosis is made and any excavation kept to a minimum. Curlew Creek presents a great opportunity for a funding submission with a strategically placed bridge/s, maybe a timber boardwalk where visitors and locals could experience the beauty of this mangrove-lined tidal estuary.

BACKGROUND Coastcare is keen to see the correct environmental values acknowledged in this special area of Main Beach and offers the following comment -

- Curlew Creek is part of the Moreton Bay Marine Park, an inter-tidal area below HAT that supports marine plants however the ecosure consultancy report appears to undervalue this tidal watercourse.
- Curlew Creek is a natural system, a barred estuary and during the dry season the mouth closes due to sedimentation, in this case caused by marine influences.

If the right ecological system isn’t confirmed at the outset then the planning process is fundamentally flawed and mistakes in ecosystem management will subsequently follow, e.g. clearing of marine plants in an incorrectly assessed area.

On page 16 under 3.9 “all of the areas mapped as wetlands were confirmed to be wetlands during field assessment. Curlew Creek does not conform to Palustrine wetland and is more likely to be estuarine with tidal influence.”

A far better response would be for a recommendation that application be made to the State to change the mapping. However, ecosure does not offer a strong statement on the incorrect mapping with the use of the wording like “more likely.”

It’s clear that Curlew Creek has a well-established mangrove community between Elizabeth to Tageruba Streets and would have a significant function in the maintenance of fisheries productivity. Under **3.2 Biodiversity planning assessment** - the whole of Coochiemudlo Island is mapped as “a State significant biodiversity area under Criteria B 1 (state ecological values - significant wetlands). The island is rated as of very high significance due to the presence of intertidal vegetation that is mapped on a Coastal Management Plan. The two wetlands north of the study site are also mapped as significant habitat for EVNT species”.

We then note in the ecosure report **3.8 Marine and Fisheries habitat** *“A sand-dune has formed near the terminal end of the creek (site 11) and this may be preventing saltwater from entering the creek on all but the highest tides. Because of this the marine vegetation has limited connection to the bay is likely to be of limited use for breeding fish or fish habitat”*

These comments are not aligned with current research into the role of mangroves in maintaining the productivity levels of near shore/offshore fisheries in embayments such as Moreton Bay.

The significance of these areas is in building-up and exporting Particulate Organic Carbon (POC) which flushes from the system in the summer rains. Furthermore, mangroves are the nursery areas for juvenile species and few breed in them. The functionality of this system is far more complex than what is stated in the Report and the statements reveal a lack of detailed knowledge in these matters.



Curlew Creek 1955

Clearly there is a drainage system behind the dunes of the front beach. Curlew Creek is a natural intertidal feature, not a drain.

Note the deltaic system at the outlet to this barred estuary.

Curlew Creek Operational Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan Version 5

1. The widening of an “excavation” zone around the Tageruba Street culvert from 26 metres (first draft) to the current 45 metres lacks detail on removal of marine vegetation.
2. Reference under **2.5 Downstream (west) of Tageruba Street** confirms the creek is dominated by marine vegetation species protected under the Queensland Fisheries Act and would require a permit for disturbance. There is no such mention for the eastern side which as noted previously has a well-established mangrove community between Elizabeth to Tageruba Streets and would have a significant function in the maintenance of fisheries productivity. This section also includes the Orange mangroves overlooked by Ecosure and identified by Peter Wear, see attachment A.

3. There still appears to be no soil tests planned prior to operational works which is a serious concern. Is **3.2** (the flushing of possible acidic material) considered Best Practice?
4. Vegetated buffers need to be planned for both sides of this mangrove-lined creek. As mentioned previously a boardwalk and bridges could create a major landscape feature
5. Any vegetation offsets be like-for-like in the immediate vicinity – ie same tree replacements and not substituted shrubs and plants. This will ensure continuity of the "Emerald Fringe." Interestingly, Tables 1 & 2 and Appendix 7 relate to the removal of trees some distance from Curlew Creek around the jetty entrance.

Coastcare looks forward to the next stage of project planning and thanks you for involvement to date.

Kind Regards

Vivienne Roberts-Thomson

President, Coochiemudlo Island Coastcare Inc

Phone 32077153; [0411226363](tel:0411226363)