



NUDGEE BEACH
environmental education centre

What you can do to Protect Your Creek!

By 2020 our waterways and catchments will be healthy ecosystems supporting the livelihoods and lifestyles of people in south east Queensland, and will be managed through collaboration between community, government and industry.

Did You Know...

... that the average south east Queenslander uses 410 litres of water a day for personal use (such as drinking, showering etc). We have the highest per capita rate of water consumption in the world. This really is a concerning statistic for the world's driest inhabited continent.

Some Interesting Creek Facts

A large proportion of the total stream and river network in south east Queensland is made up of small gullies. For much of the year, these are dry and not easily identified as important parts of the waterways. However, after rain, they become drainage lines, into which rainfall run-off collects and flows, forming a vast branching network that eventually comes together to form larger streams and rivers.

In south east Queensland these gullies, or 'first-order streams' as they are called, make up a very large proportion of the total length of waterways – approximately 7,500 km of a total waterway length of almost 16,000 km.

Life at the Water's Edge...

Riparian vegetation is the ribbon of trees and other plants that line the edges of waterways and includes many species of native (and exotic or introduced) sedges, grasses, vines, trees and shrubs.

The roots of the trees hold the soil of the creek bank in place, reducing erosion during times when the waterways are more full and flowing faster. The trees and plants also filter run-off flowing into the creek from the surrounding landscape trapping sediment, nutrients and debris. Riparian zones provide wildlife corridors so that small mammals and reptiles can move safely from one area to another. Honeyeaters, kingfishers, wrens and other small birds use dense riparian vegetation as protection from predators. Water dragons, platypus and water rats live among the roots in the banks.