

Name of Witness	Anne Hilary CLARKE
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Address and contact details	[REDACTED] 4075
Occupation	President, Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc.
Officer taking statement	Detective Sergeant Paul Browne
Date taken	19/09/2011

I, Anne Hilary CLARKE state;

1. I am the President of the Oxley Creek Catchment Association Incorporated (OCCA) and have held this position from 2002-05, and from 2009 to current. I first became involved in water quality monitoring in Oxley Creek catchment in 1975 as part of the research being undertaken by the 'Australian Littoral Society'.
2. OCCA was originally set-up in 1995 as an 'Integrated Catchment Management' (ICM) organisation after a public forum was held to gather community involvement and interest in developing an ICM plan. The group then collaborated to achieve the publication of the document: "State of the Oxley Creek Catchment Report and Water and Land Use Impact and Management Analysis" by Kinhill, Cameron and McNamara, December 1996. Following that, the group achieved funding to produce the "1999 Oxley Creek Catchment Management Plan" in collaboration with Brisbane River Management Group, Brisbane City Council, Logan City Council and Beaudesert Shire Council and Healthy Waterways.
3. OCCA is funded by membership, partners from various groups and granting bodies, as well as relevant government grants.. As President I am answerable to a Management Committee and the organisation is primarily run by volunteers and a small number of paid employees. A list of our partners is available to the public.

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Page Number 1 of 14

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4. OCCA works with the community to monitor catchment issues and run regular information sessions, designed to educate students of all levels, community and industry members and groups on waterway issues. Wherever possible we try to form partnerships with government, councils, business and the community to improve catchment practices which influence the health of Oxley Creek. An example of these partnerships is a program called "Creekwatch" which was developed following a number of recorded pollution incidents in 2006, where no culprit could be found. On that occasion OCCA was approached by "Bluescope Steel Queensland" and asked to help establish a network of likeminded businesses, community and government representatives. From those initial meetings a group was formed to play a lead role in preventing pollution of our waterways, particularly in and around Industrial areas. OCCA was also able to employ a CreekWATCH officer to assist with that process of education and awareness and to better monitor what was occurring.

5. OCCA is active in the community but are not automatically consulted by Council, Government or Industry. For that reason we try to spend as much time as possible door-knocking and making ourselves known to improve those relationships and develop partnerships in the community. Where circumstances exist we will object to proposed developments that may impact on Oxley Creek. We also play a role in education and try to use funding from larger industries to educate those smaller businesses operating in the catchment area. We operate a website [www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au](http://www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au) and publish a regular newsletter.

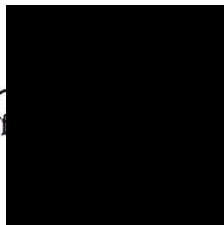
**I am able to produce a copy of the Newsletter published in February 2011, following the January flood (Attachment 1).**

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6. In October each year "Healthy Waterways Limited" release a report card on the condition of local waterways and catchment areas. Oxley Creek currently receives a 'D' in that report and OCCA are trying to improve that rating. This condition is primarily due to the geology of the underlying soils combined with bad practices, which result in excessive loads of sediment entering the waterways of Oxley Creek. The sediment not only makes the water turbid but rubbish and particles also attach themselves to this sediment. Oxygen levels drop as the bacteria breakdown all the foreign material, causing fish kills and loss of valuable macro-invertebrate fauna and flora. We have had some success by working in partnership with industry, government and the community to rehabilitate particular areas, but there is a lot more to be done.
  
7. As a result of the January floods OCCA was involved in the clean-up of Oxley Creek. During that process we took a number of photographs, some of which are included in the February 2011 Newsletter.

**LAND PLANNING AND USE MANAGEMENT:**

8. OCCA is concerned about the way industry does little to protect hazardous material from being flooded out of premises. Some businesses employ measures such as bunding to prevent spillages from exiting their premises, but do little to stop water from coming in during a flood event. In instances where flood water went higher than the bunding the water mixed with the material and flowed out regardless.

Witness Signature

Page Number 3 of 14

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9. It is thought that during the floods there were five or six fuel stations on the floodplain totally or partially inundated. Most of these had adjoining workshops where many hydrocarbon type fuels are used and stored. Most of the stations have sludge pits which would have been flooded and it is not known whether these were pumped out and disposed of thoughtfully or how they were treated. There has not been any indication from oil companies or others as to what volumes were lost in the flood and with such large numbers being flooded, it may have been beneficial to have treated the event as an oil spill? There has been no evidence that this occurred or that such experts were brought in.
10. What are the regulations concerning the storage of these hydrocarbon type products? What are the regulations in regard to the construction of petrol stations? OCCA has requested such information from the Council but it has not been provided. We believe that such information should be available to all concerned parties.
11. Paint factories are another area of concern. OCCA is aware that 'Dulux' had bunds in place to contain spills from within the factory, however no precautions were thought necessary to cope with an incoming flood of water from outside the factory. No doubt, other paint factories and chemical industries in the area would have also suffered inundation from an unexpected direction.
12. OCCA believes that when Environmentally Relevant Activity(ERA) licences are issued, the response to flooding needs to be made a part of the risk evaluation process.
13. From a residential perspective, OCCA is aware that the Brisbane City Council (BCC) appears to have made strenuous efforts since March 2001, to encourage householders to move off the floodplain and we believe that this should be further encouraged.

Witness Signature.  
Page Number 4 of 1

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**REGULATORY PROCESS:**

14. One of our ongoing initiatives has been to launch a brochure or booklet for local industrial businesses about the laws regarding hazardous materials, approval procedures, reporting and penalties. This project arose out of the 'Creekwatch' program and would include processes to follow in the event of a contamination or where a business observes that something has happened to the Creek in their local area. Council officers and EPA have been involved with the drafting but so far we have had about 5 different drafts, with the problem being that the legislation and regulatory controls are so complex that it is difficult to simplify or comprehend.
15. Those regulatory processes are one of the issues OCCA would like to see simplified as it is not clear who has responsibility for responding to an incident. The current regulations for many of the land uses allowed on the floodplain, appear to have no simple way of differentiation as to which arm of government (DERM, EPA, Council etc) is responsible for their location, construction and practices. This makes it very difficult for a group like OCCA to follow the regulatory control and different responsibilities of the various agencies. It is equally as hard for industry members and this was why we began the information booklet process, hoping to simplify the process so more people would become involved in and take an interest in protecting the waterway.
16. Currently the brochure is in draft form waiting for final editing and production. Instead the simplest solution is in the event of external or internal evidence of a spill, we encourage the public to ring the BCC call centre. They assess the issue and will direct the response to whichever is the relevant agency.

Witness Signature.....  
Page Number 5 of 14

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I am able to produce a copy of the latest draft of that information booklet (Attachment 2).

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**PREPARATION PRIOR TO A FLOOD / EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:**

17. It appears that owners of Unit developments are much more aware of flood levels than their tenants who are only renting the property. I believe(personal opinion only) that a block of 90 units at the eastern end of Long Street Graceville with a beautiful waterway in between the units, should not have been approved, given the potential of flood and impacts. From OCCA's knowledge of that complex the people renting those units had no knowledge of the previous floodwater levels, hence their response to the emergency would have been much slower. Fortunately no lives were lost.

18. At a recent meeting of our 'Creckwatch' partners, OCCA led a discussion about precautions undertaken for this flood event. One industry partner located at Annie Street, Coopers Plains (an area often subject to flooding from rainfall events) shared with us the precautions they undertook to prevent their materials from moving around or escaping their premises. From materials on hand (rolls of 2 metre wide plastic), they wove a barrier in and out of their doorways so that no materials would be able to be moved. Fortunately the floodwaters in January 2011 did not push up beyond Riawena Road, so these safeguards were not tested in this instance. Although this may not be an effective measure for chemicals or soluble materials, it is a good example of a business trying to protect their product from escaping and of what might be achieved.

Witness Signature  
Page Number 6 of 14



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19. Householders should also be made more aware of the risks that are posed to the waterways from the storage of herbicides, paints and insecticides. The BCC appears to conduct regular opportunities for householders to dispose of old or semi-used containers, however from anecdotal reports it appears large volumes of these were swept from under people's houses during the flood. For this and other reasons associated with the clean-up, households also had a significant impact on the waterway. OCCA believes that more emphasis should be put into these types of regular collection and the benefits of such.
20. There also needs to be far more awareness of precautionary practices which can be undertaken when an event is signaled. These should be made available to both residents and industries on the flood plain. Opportunities for education about such practices should be embraced and local governments should be assisted to continue their assistance to householders. OCCA would appreciate support to take the opportunity to extend our 'Creekwatch' program to readiness for floods as well as spill containment and riparian restoration.
21. Regardless of the nature of the businesses, industry operating in a flood prone area should also be required to have a flood plan of what to do in the event of a flood. This should include evacuation of materials and measures that can be taken to ensure retention of any remaining product so as to have as little impact on the environment as possible.

**CLEAN-UP AFTER A FLOOD:**

22. The goodwill which existed following the flood and the effort by people who assisted with the clean-up was exemplary. However, there appeared to be little thought as to the best way of undertaking such a recovery process.

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Page Number 7 of 14

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23. After the floods and during the clean-up a lot of businesses and home owners used a large volume of water to flush-out or wash down buildings and roads. Unfortunately there was no thought given to where that water would go or the downstream effects of such cleaning efforts. There was no evidence of any bunding material, and no absorbent socks or booms used to stop water from flowing into Oxley Creek. An example of something that could have been considered was the use of hay bales, similar to what the Fire Brigade use when they turn out to a Chemical Fire. BCC were providing sandbags from depots for areas, there needs to be socks, booms and other containment measures stockpiled and brought into play when such an event occurs.

24. Compounding that was the toxic nature of chemicals and other hazardous materials which had been removed from buildings and distributed on footpaths for collection. The contents of these were not recognised or addressed in an appropriate manner. For example, in Franklin Street, Rocklea, there were bags of cement and lime lying on the footpath and the consequent high pH values resulting from such a mix would be deleterious to any surviving waterway life. In another example, pool chemicals were left out for collection and were being further washed by falling rain. This simply added to the mix of what was already going into the creek.

**STORAGE WITHIN RIPARIAN AREAS and THE RESULTANT DEBRIS:**

25. It appears to be accepted practice that any extra materials such as pallets, portaloos, shipping containers, and garbage bins can be left on or stored on the banks of tributaries and waterways. This is prevalent in the Moolabin, Rocky Water Holes, Stable Swamp Creek and Oxley Creek, particularly in the areas of Tennyson, Moorooka, Rocklea, Salisbury, Coopers Plains and Oxley.

Witness Signature.....  
Page Number 8 of 14



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26. Prior to the flood we had been in contact with the BCC and asked them to clean-up debris left in the creek from previous floods (March 9, 2001 and November 2004). However, although some work was done, and the age of some of the materials pulled out following this January flood was sufficiently obvious that it was noted. These added to the "new" load of port-a-loos, pallets and containers spread throughout the area.

27. Throughout the Oxley Creek Catchment area there were also in excess of 2000 hazardous material 'containers' which were found in the clean-up and recovered. One of the items that I witnessed myself was a huge diesel container which had escaped from Shoebury Street, Rocklea. It was only one of the items which had to be lifted out by crane and returned to the grateful owner. OCCA was relieved that DERM contracted the removal of those Hazardous Containers to a specialist Expert Team (Transpacific) and provided us with a map of the locations and recovery of those containers as of February 2011. This map demonstrates the particular concentration of containers in those same areas where debris had collected from previous flood events. Other items which cause debris are boating pontoons and one of our members has told us that when the Department of Harbours and Marine licensed such pontoons, each was constructed with "scuttle valves" so that they would sink and not contribute to the debris build-up. An examination of this idea should be undertaken.

I am able to produce a copy of the Map (Attachment 3).

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Witness Signature. [Redacted]  
Page Number 9 of 14

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28. I am aware that DERM engaged an independent auditor to overview that recovery process. Unfortunately the nature or contents of those containers has not been provided to us, although we believe from our own observations that they consisted mostly of shipping containers, 44 gallon drums and fuel storage tanks. The distribution of those hazardous containers and the markings on them must have given some indication of their original locations, but OCCA has not been privy to that information. Nor are we aware of any analysis of the drums or their condition once they were recovered.

29. We are also unaware of what determination was used to define a container as 'hazardous' and for future knowledge and recovery of the area it would be good to have this knowledge and know what was where?

30. A further example of this is demonstrated in the OCCA February 2011 Newsletter, where a concerned Greenbank resident reported the location of a 44 gallon drum of "Metham" which is a soil sterilizer. This was found at Crewes Creek which is an upper tributary of Oxley Creek, however it is not known from where the container came or whether or not any of the contents had leaked out. What I can relate is that when the manufacturer attended to collect the drum the finder was surprised to see staff wearing full Hazmat protective suits.

31. It should be asked where did that drum come from, why was it loose and how is that such a drum was permitted to be stored so close to a creek?

32. We all recognize that "recycling" is vital to prevent waste but many of these companies have practices which need close examination. Some have established on old extractive industry sites and other flood prone land so their impacts in flood events have the potential to be large.

Witness Signature. [Redacted]

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Page Number 10 of 14

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33. Some of the recyclers such as AMCOR flatten drink cans etc and pack them in rectangular cages. These rectangular cages were particularly difficult to collect post flood as the wire netting flattens and the items inside are distributed over a large area. Small items from these cages were particularly evident along Dunn Road, Rocklea, and at the Oxley Creek Common beside Stable Swamp and Oxley Creeks. The question which needs to be asked is what level of regulation would enable these "recycling" industries to have nil downstream effects in the catchment? Current enforcement activities do not appear to be working.

34. Shipping pallets are also stored in very tall piles and in large numbers in and around the Brisbane Markets. These were another problem following the flood and in one instance, it seemed difficult to get the owner of those pallets to reclaim them. The owner of some pallets was contacted but was not interested in coming to retrieve them as he was still receiving rent for them, despite the fact they were in the flood water. Large towers of pallets are still in existence today.

35. The Oxley Creek Common was used as a storage point for all of the items that were being recovered, including the pallets, fuel storage units, port-a-loos and shipping containers. After recovery, owners were contacted and asked to come and collect things that were able to be identified.

**OXLEY WATER RECLAMATION PLANT (Sewage Treatment Plant):**

36. While it is recognised that sewage treatment plants are often located on a floodplain, their functionality should not be compromised by flooding events. OCCA has received advice from Queensland Urban Utilities about what happened at the Oxley plant during the actual event, but it must be emphasised that there were too many sewage overflow events prior to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

Witness Signature [REDACTED]  
Page Number 11 of 14


Signature of [REDACTED]

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37. Some residents in Allawah Street, Yeerongpilly, were subjected to numerous sewer overflow events which were excessive and not well addressed. Ongoing sewer discharges are thought to be contributing to the very high enterococci results which have been recorded, however no results have been available for Oxley Creek since 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011. Up to that time the figures for Kendall Street, Cliveden Avenue and Pamphlett Bridge, were too high for all forms of recreation other than boating and I am concerned as to why these enterococci figures for Oxley Creek are no longer publicly available on the BCC website?
38. Photographs taken of an un-named waterway at Donaldson Road, Rocklea (depicted in February Newsletter), show the extent of damage suffered by the waterways. This water looked so dead that I felt the bugs in there may have been producing methane. I have been unable to find out exactly what conditions produce such dead black water and although it was reported to BCC, there has not been a satisfactory answer to date. Currently the waterway appears to have improved marginally but in recent times, some cattle were grazed in that area and their droppings have fouled the waterway again.

**IPSWICH MOTORWAY:**

39. There is a current project underway to improve traffic flow on the "Darra to Rocklea part of the Ipswich Motorway." To achieve this, many of the on and off ramps will be closed in this section and there is an intention to join Boundary road (Oxley) to Boundary road (Archerfield) by passing through 2054 Ipswich Road. OCCA has concerns about this project that unless the pylons for the connection are adequately constructed, and the resulting design verified by an independent authority that it will not exacerbate the current conditions, it should not proceed. A bunded wall design would severely impact the waterway and surroundings by creating a damming effect in any future flood.

Witness Signature   
Page Number 12 of 14

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40. Along the creek and across the northern side of the Ipswich Motorway is a wrecking yard, and spare parts and other recyclers. These also caused us much concern in the January floods.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

41. From our knowledge of the area and time spent in and around the Oxley Creek Catchment, OCCA have a number of concerns. In addition to those already raised throughout this statement we ask the Commission of Inquiry to consider the following:

- The appropriateness of industry warehouses being situated so close to residential development and the effect this had on Oxley Creek after the floods;
- Processes undertaken during the clean-up and the lack of precautions taken after the flood;
- Regulatory control in response to when an incident occurs and who has responsibility;
- Storage of hazardous materials (industrial and residential) and what happens to those items during a flooding event;
- Education and Awareness for residents and industries in the Oxley Creek catchment area;
- The effects of Sewage Treatment Plants located on a floodplain and steps to mitigate these effects;

Witness Signature [Redacted]  
Page Number 13 of 14

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- Enhancement and protection of vegetation corridors and in particular the Flinders-Greenbank-Karawatha corridor and the connections for existing vegetation on Oxley Creek and its tributaries. Enhanced protection would diminish erosion and slippages and decrease the sedimentation level;
- Improved management of the floodplains of Oxley Creek, to include: an analysis of licenses on the floodplain ensuring an appropriate clause exists so that upon notification of an event companies activate their contingency planning mechanism; attention paid to the licenses for operating the Oxley Sewage Treatment Plant, the Brisbane Markets and other smaller facilities such as Petrol stations, Paint and Plastic industries or recyclers; and
- The erection of flood markers so that industry and residents appreciate the height of floodwaters where they live, work and play.

42. I ask the Commission to consider these issues and suggestions when making future recommendations.

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Anne Hilary CLARKE.

21<sup>st</sup> September 2011.

**Justices Act 1886**

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 14 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....Signature

Signed at .....Brisbane.....this....21<sup>st</sup>.....day of ..... September.....2011....

Witness Signature.

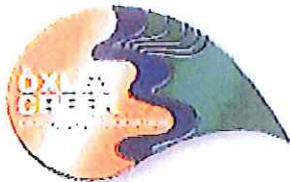
Page Number 14 of 14

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THE

# Oxley Overflow

JOURNAL OF THE OXLEY CREEK CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION

February 2011

VOLUME 13 ISSUE 1



## Management of the Floodplain

### *Downstream effects of the January 2011 flooding*

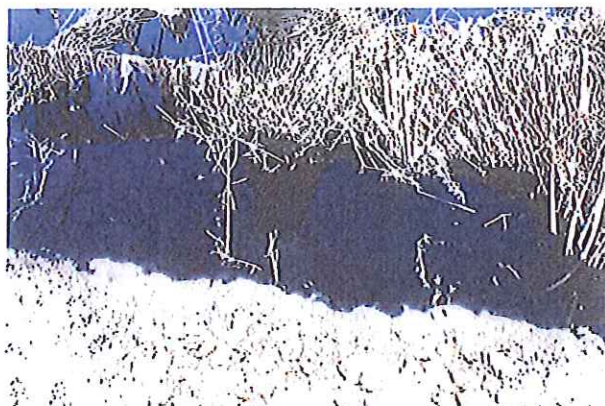
A floodplain as defined in BCC's Watersmart Strategy (2010), consists of "the areas adjacent to the defined bed and banks of a watercourse or channel that are subject to periodic flooding". Thus one would expect that any floodplain management would take into account the words "subject to periodic inundation".



*Leachate from the Rocklea Industrial area*

However, we are now sadly aware that neither the activities permitted on the floodplain nor any strategies prepared, were by any measure practical for these flooding events or for our clean-up efforts. Furthermore, there appears to have been no recognition or synchronisation with the words 'periodic flooding'. Much energy, money and debate has been poured into "climate change" departments at local, state and federal government level, but it has been of no use in countering the downstream effects of these recent floods.

Our planning seems to have been non-existent. For practical reasons, sewage treatment plants are located at low points so that gravity can assist with the necessary movement of sewage. The Oxley Sewage Treatment plant was submerged in 1974 and it was thought that during the upgrade in 2004-06, some additions were made to improve its flood protection. No doubt, in the next few months, information will be provided about the level of inundation at this vital piece of infrastructure and the reasons for its complete breakdown. In the meantime, the "black water" from the plant, has been flowing along with many other unspecified materials, to make a potent mix downstream.

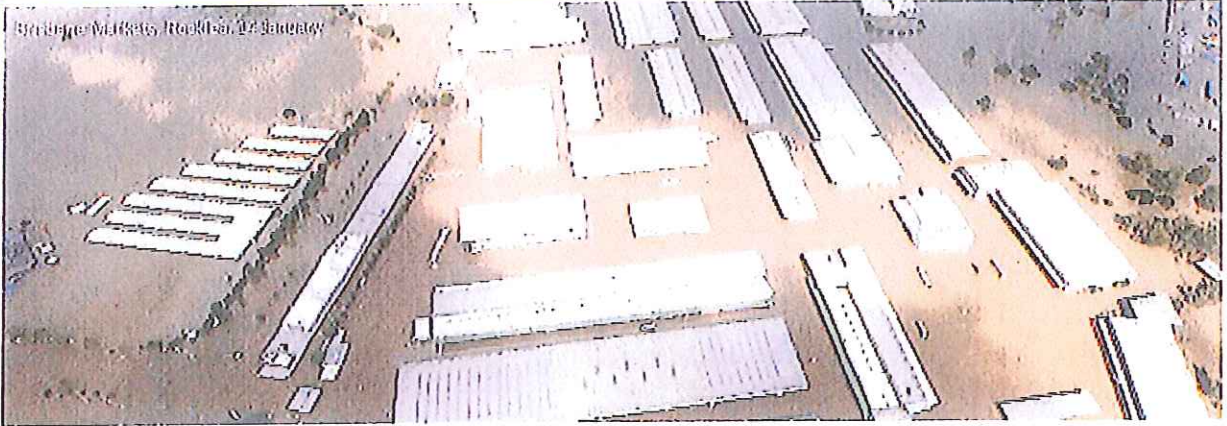


*Black water at Donaldson Road, near the Sewage Treatment Plant*

All of us, residents and industry alike, have contributed to this "cocktail" of chemicals. At our houses and businesses on the floodplain, our housekeeping has not been appropriate. Bags of fertilisers, herbicides, cleaning agents plus other materials, have been swept downstream, or placed with little systematic organisation on the footpath for removal. Further mixing has occurred as the rain has fallen. At last count in our catchment, it is thought that five petrol stations were inundated to varying levels. What special design features were or should have been included to minimise the downstream effects of their immersion, when the decision to locate them on the floodplain

To reduce our carbon footprint we are moving to electronic copy of our newsletter, which will be available on our website. If you have not sent us your email address please do so as soon as possible so we can notify you when each new issue is posted.

Brisbane Markets, Rockham, 12 January



was made? Most of them have attached workshops with the necessary oil, diesel and cleaning chemicals required for maintenance of vehicles. These have further compounded the mix.

From the Brisbane Markets, a major piece of infrastructure, pallets with fruit and vegetables were carried away. We are aware that the Markets were warning their tenants that flooding was imminent, but seemingly no precautionary measures to hold the flotsam were taken.

Distributors of pool chemicals, paint manufacturers and others were flooded, and either during the flooding or as they emptied their buildings, the damaged bags and containers of product were either swept away, or again



poorly placed on the footpath in the aftermath where the rain added to the chemical mix.

Furthermore, at Crewes Creek, a beautiful ephemeral tributary of upper Oxley Creek, a drum of "Metham" (a soil steriliser) was seen by an eagle eyed resident of Greenbank, and fortunately promptly reported to the relevant authorities. The manufacturer has been out to collect the drum but, at this stage, nobody knows the location from which the drum was swept, or if any chemical leaked. This is another example of very shoddy housekeeping. Why was

that drum loose? Why are commercial farms permitted to have their sheds so close to the creek?

There has been no evidence of any effort to minimise the toxic run-off. As the clean-up has progressed, it is understandable that large volumes of water have been used to clean down the streets and buildings but the vitally important natural fauna and flora of our waterways have been totally forgotten. At the risk of sounding totally anthropomorphic, our precious natural ecosystem partners (i.e. the flora and fauna) on which we are totally dependent, appreciate clean oxygenated water just as much as we do. If oxygen is not available death occurs. Then the fish and invertebrates die, and more insidious partners take their place.

It is remiss of us not to have tried to filter out the black water, not to have tried to filter the run-off with mechanisms that might offer protection to the ecological integrity of our waterways. There has been no sign of any effective barriers, such as absorbent materials in the stormwater drains, or booms at different points along the waterways to trap the hydrocarbons.

Sadly, due to our sloppy approach, we are now responsible for major impacts to Moreton Bay, an internationally recognised RAMSAR site since 1993. In this, the fortieth year of the International Ramsar Convention which recognises wetlands of major importance, we have allowed this to happen.

It is time for us to change the way in which we approach floodplains. Our Oxley floodplain with its wonderful wetlands should be cherished and nurtured. If infrastructure has to be located there, then the conditions of use must be proactively focused on the maintenance of the resilience of our natural systems and their ecological integrity. *Anne Clarke OAM*

*President*

*Oxley Creek Catchment Association*



## Wrapping-Up Catchment Kids 2010

During 2010, students from two Year 6/7 classes from Acacia Ridge State School had the opportunity to actively care for and learn about the Oxley Creek Catchment through the year-long environmental Education program – *Catchment Kids*. The *Catchment Kids* program is an initiative of the Brisbane Catchment Network (BCN) and is facilitated by the BCC Creek Ranger team.

The grand finale of 2010 was the end-of-year performance at Southbank Piazza. A day of kids teaching kids through interpretive performances based around catchment health. The Acacia Ridge class performed *'Pricilla, Queen of the Catchment'*, a journey of

song and dance about the condition of the Oxley Creek Catchment and how we can all work together to heal it. As a fun, creek treat, TV's *Totally Wild* Ranger Stacey was the MC for the day's proceedings and local Coun-



Cr Peter Matic congratulates the  
*Catchment Kids*

cillor Steve Griffiths dropped in to cheer on the Acacia Ridge performers. Big congratulations go to Nundah State School who took out the prize for best performance, a trophy from the Lord Mayor and \$1500 to put towards an environmental project for their school. On the day however, every child was a winner, with a mind full of knowledge, a bag full of goodies and a beautiful *Steve Parish* book pack going to each school so the students can continue their journey of discovery.

*"I was sad (we didn't win) but I was happy for the other school. I'd had the best day ever". – Katelyn, Acacia Ridge State School.*

*"Being able to perform in the Piazza was a great opportunity". – Mulan, Acacia Ridge State School.*

Leah Hattendorff  
Creek Ranger – Oxley Catchment

## International Year of Forests

### *Celebrating Forests for People*

From the colourful, glistening rainforest of the Daintree to the ancient, towering woodlands of Tasmania, Australia is home to some of the most remarkable and diverse forests in the world. Their future is in our hands and this year the United Nations has announced 2011 as the *Year of Forests*. More specifically, it draws focus towards how people everywhere play a role in their sustainable management and protection.

Forests are more than just a place to take a bushwalk, or a giant filter for our air. They are hotspots for innumerable and intriguing species to thrive, they supply the wood with which our societies were established, they provide livelihoods for 1.6 billion people around the world and they are home to 300 million peoples from a vibrant collection of cultures across the globe.

This year is the year to celebrate our forests and the cultures whose origins were conceived within them. It is a year to consider and appreciate the importance of improved sustainability of the timber industry and other industries that our forests support, such as ecotourism; a time to understand the critical role of our forests in

mitigating the effects of climate change. At the dawn of a new decade, how can we face the future with more certainty that our natural resources are not squandered and that due protection for our forest places is delivered?

Join the conversation or discover events and involved:

IYOF Australia - [www.internationalyearofforests.com.au](http://www.internationalyearofforests.com.au)

Forests Australia, Federal Gov - <http://adl.brs.gov.au/forestsaustralia>

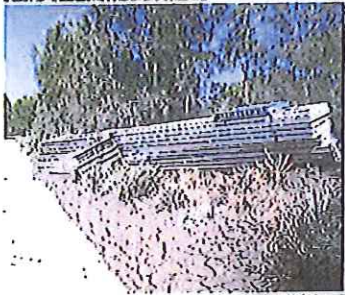
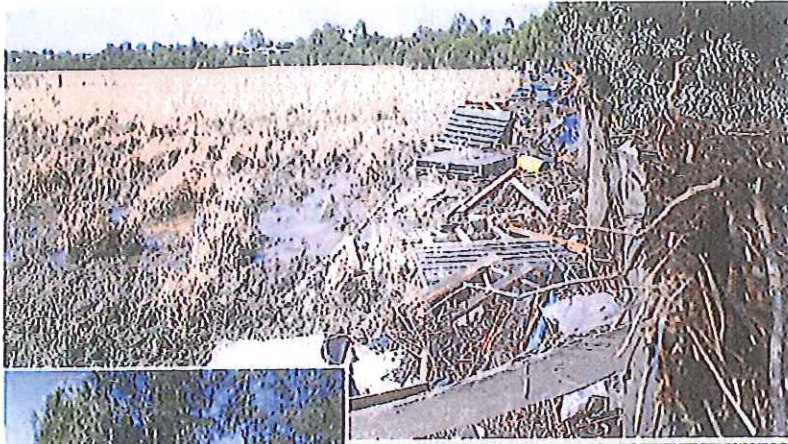
Institute of Foresters - [www.forestry.org.au](http://www.forestry.org.au)

Leah Hattendorff  
Creek Ranger – Oxley Catchment



## After the Flood — Images from the Northern Catchment

**Oxley Creek Common, Rocklea, 25th January 2011**—The Department of Public Works had just begun their clean-up of the site when these photos were taken.



*Debris along the walking track from the Environment Centre*

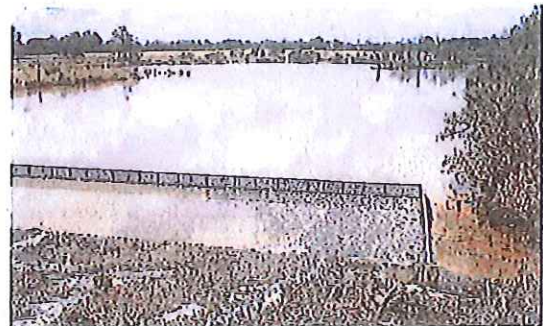


*Jan 2011 Flood Height*

### Mayfly Creek, Oxley, 25 Jan 2011



*Towards Oxley Rd*

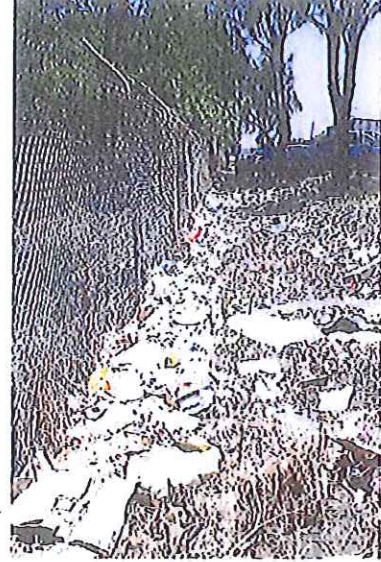


*Martin Taylor Drive towards Pelican Wetlands*



*Path to the pontoon*

**Oxley Creek Billabong, Rocklea, 25th January 2011**—These Images were taken along Donaldson Rd, Dunn Rd and Suscatand St near the Oxley Sewage Treatment Plant.



*Ipswich Motorway Service Rd. Channel between Suscatand & Collinsvale St.*

**Rocky Water Holes Creek, 25th January 2011**  
Cambridge St, Rocklea



**Oxley Creek, Ipswich Motorway 25th January 2011**



**Oxley Creek, Sherwood Rd, 25th January 2011**



**Shoebury St, Rocklea, 25th January—**This industrial area is located on Stable Swamp Creek, near the eastern end of the Oxley Creek Common.



**Moolabin Creek, Moorooka, 25th Jan—**Downstream from Lucy St, off Ipswich Rd.

## OCCA 14th Annual General Meeting

Our 14th AGM started with a special presentation by Jen Ford, Senior Natural Areas Restoration Officer for the Gold Coast City Council. Jen spoke on her experience with ecological restoration and how the process has evolved. Approaches used include natural regeneration, assisted regeneration, revegetation and fabrication. Each site has its own restoration plan to guide the management of the area, and the group aims to promote the value of the work to the public using site comparisons (before and after) where possible.

A limited number of nominations for the Management Committee were received this year and the general meeting supported the suggestion that the executive positions be filled from the members on the Management Committee at the first committee meeting. The makeup of your OCCA Management Committee for 2011 is:

President: Anne Clarke

Secretary: Dave Kent

Treasurer: Anne Gribbon

Members: Lynn Whitfield, Diana Dawson, Phil Gunasekara

Following the recommendation by the Management Committee, Life Memberships were awarded to Phil Kyle and Frank Dingle for their many years of hard work for OCCA and the catchment.

Frank Dingle was OCCA's Honorary Treasurer from 1995 to 2007. This represents hours of work from a person with a huge passion for his community. Prior to the introduction of software programs for bookkeeping, Frank customized a program just for the catchment projects. Frank has endless patience and perseverance and no job was too large or too small for him. OCCA was very fortunate that Frank joined us, as it also meant that the Pamphlet Sea Scouts were with us also, as Frank was Leader of the Sea Scouts for more than 30 years.

Phil Kyle

These were awarded by Anne Clarke on behalf of OCCA, and Phil Kyle graciously accepted this nomination. A Certificate of Life Membership will be presented to Frank Dingle at a later date.

## OCCA Priority Planning Meeting — Tuesday 22 March

Please note that due to the floods and the continuing disruption the General Meeting planned for February has been postponed to Tuesday, March 22, at 5:30 pm. Thankfully we are now back in our office upstairs at the Brisbane Markets, so the venue for the meeting will be as usual our Catchment Centre.

No doubt there will be lots of flood stories to share and we hope by then to have more of an understanding of the damage that has been sustained and of the recovery process.

Thus for this meeting, which was designed as a planning meeting for OCCA, bring along your ideas and experiences.

We look forward to seeing you on March 22nd.

Stay tuned for more information closer to the date

## Granard Wetlands – Boom and Bust

During the month of December 2010, students from local Moorooka State School and Rocklea State School planted almost 500 new trees at the Granard Wetlands Restoration Site in Rocklea. On Monday the 6th of December, the Rocklea State School students were joined by employees from Bunnings Rocklea as well as Councillor Steve Griffiths for the Moorooka Ward. These plantings celebrated the commencement of the Brisbane City Council (BCC) Two Million Trees Program at the site. Bunnings Rocklea generously provided morning tea and water bottles at these events to keep the volunteers happy and hydrated.



OCCA's Community Engagement Officer, Mirlam Nyrene shows Moorooka SS how to plant a happy, healthy tree.

The Granard Wetlands Restoration Project (the project) operates on 5.5 hectares of BCC parkland, located between the Ipswich Motorway and Granard Road at Rocklea. The project is managed by the Oxley Creek Catchment Association (OCCA) and has seen the installation of over 2400 plants over the last 2 years. The restoration efforts have been given a vital boost by partnering with Brisbane City Council's Two Million Trees Program, which will see the restoration of an additional 1 hectare of the site's total area.



Oxley Creek Ranger, Leah Hattendorff and Councillor Steve Griffiths get some dirt under their fingernails.

Luckily most of the plantings from these school activities survived the recent flood event, as they took place on higher ground. Other areas of the site were sadly, not so fortunate. Many plants by the creek-line were simply too young to survive the inundation. Oxley Creek Catchment Association is still committed to the project and is looking forward to seeing the site ready to receive volunteers again.

OCCA is grateful to the project's valuable sponsors; EDI Downer Works, Bunnings Rocklea, Brisbane City Council and the Moorooka Ward, Energex, Coca-Cola and Landcare Australia.

If your business or organisation has an interest in supporting this valuable rehabilitation project, please contact OCCA at [occa@flatrate.net.au](mailto:occa@flatrate.net.au).

## Peaks to Points Festival wins GreenHeart Award!

The Lord Mayor's Australia Day Awards, recognising people who have made Brisbane a better place to be, was held on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> January. Along with Citizen of the Year, Dr James Morton, and other worthy winners, OCCA was delighted to receive a GreenHeart Event Award for the 'Peaks to Points (P2P) Festival'. Lynn Whitfield, our talented P2P Chairperson, was recognised for her leadership in successfully engaging the community across the southside of the Brisbane River.

The Festival program was started in 1997 as the Oxley Creek Water Festival and has since grown to into a two-week biennial festival across Brisbane's southside, from Peaks (Flinders Peak) to Points (the bay - Wellington Point etc). The Festival supports and provides a showcase for groups addressing environmental issues through the area. Over 25 community groups took part in the 2010 Festival.



P2P Chairperson, Lynn Whitfield and Phil Gunasekara

## OCCA COMMUNITY NURSERY AT NYANDA STATE HIGH SCHOOL

The OCCA Community Nursery, situated in the grounds of the Nyanda State High School at Salisbury, was established as a facility for use by the catchment group and the school.

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### **Get Involved - The Nursery is looking for new volunteers!**

No experience necessary, but please wear closed sturdy shoes and a hat.

Learn how to sow seeds and strike cuttings and care for the developing plants until they are ready for planting.

(All tasks undertaken by volunteers are very light physical work, enjoyable and usually undertaken around a potting/ planting table)

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The aim of the nursery is to provide a facility that fosters community participation in the propagation of flora for use in enhancing the environment.

The OCCA Community Nursery would like to:

- Provide opportunities for community volunteers
- Produce indigenous plants for bushland restoration/regeneration works and habitat creation in the catchment.
- Promote the use of indigenous plant species in the catchment.
- Raise awareness of biodiversity conservation and environmental sustainability initiatives in the community.

### **Our future direction**

OCCA and Bushcare groups within the catchment are concerned by the apparent lack of diversity that commercial native plant nurseries can offer in both plant species and genetics. OCCA and the Bushcare groups would like to unite to commence collecting and propagating their own seeds. Funding is being actively sought to commence this project.

### **Location**

Nyanda State High School - Frewin Tce , Salisbury, Brisbane, QLD

### **Hours of operation**

10:00 am to 12:00 am every Thursday (excluding public holidays)

### **For more information**

For further information on the OCCA Community Nursery email us ([occa@flatrate.net.au](mailto:occa@flatrate.net.au)), or contact us on: Phone & Facsimile No: 07 3278 2899

## Events Calendar

Date	Event
5.30 pm, Tuesday March 22nd, 2011	General Meeting at OCCA Catchment Centre

### OUR CATCHMENT CENTRE

The Oxley Creek Catchment Centre contains a collection of publications, maps, posters and hand-out material containing information on the Oxley Creek Catchment.

It also has a wide range of general catchment management and environmental information addressing a range of issues such as air quality, vegetation, water quality, land degradation, flood management, erosion control and stormwater management.

Contact the Oxley Creek Catchment Association on 3278 2899 for an appointment or email OCCA.

## Local Bushcare Groups

### *Benarrawa Bushcare Group, Corinda*

Meets last Saturday of the month - Ph 3379 8008 for more details.

### *Cliveden Reserve Bushcare Group, Corinda*

Meets first Saturday of the month - Ph 3379 1453 for more details.

### *Friends of Sherwood Arboretum, Sherwood*

Meets third Sunday of the month - Ph 3379 1974 for more details.

### *Gaddes Park Bushcare Group, Sunnybank*

Meets third Saturday of the month. Ph Pat Toohey on 3342 3026 for details.

### *Karawatha Forest Protection Society*

Meets third Thursday of the month at 7.00pm, Ph 3341 7365 for details.

### *Les Atkinson Park Bushcare Group, Sunnybank*

Meets fourth Saturday of the month at 8am - Ph 3219 5242 for details.

### *Moorooka Greening Group, Moorooka*

Meets first Saturday of the month - Ph 3892 7185 for more details.

### *Nosworthy Park Bushcare Group, Corinda*

Meets first Saturday of the month - Ph. 3278 2229

### *Rocky Water Holes Bushcare Group, Moorooka*

Ph 3277 7524 for more details.

### *Spring Mountain Reserve Bushcare group*

Meets fourth Sunday of each month. Ph Julie on 0438 130 005 for details.

### *Strickland Terrace Parkland Group, Sherwood*

Meets second Saturday of the month - Ph 3379 6021 for more details.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

Oxley Creek Catchment Association Inc.

PO Box 217, SHERWOOD Q 4075

Phone/Fax: (07) 3278 2899

Email: [occa@flatrate.net.au](mailto:occa@flatrate.net.au)

Online via our Website: <http://www.oxleycreekcatchment.org.au>

## Our Partners



Dedicated to a better Brisbane





The prosecution and the severity of the punishment given to those who fail to assist in investigating an environmental incident can be great.

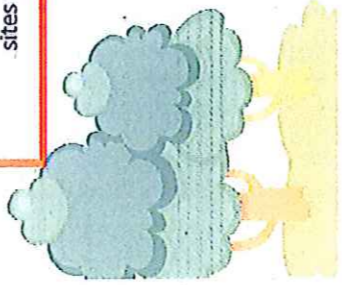
- A known offender who has wilfully caused an incident or avoided cooperating with an investigation will be prosecuted.
- A penalty of up to \$200 000 or 2 years imprisonment, in addition to the costs of the clean up
- Fines for witnessed offenders: Individual \$1000, Corporation \$2000
- Non-compliance with an Environment Protection Order: Individual \$500, Corporation \$2000

#### What can be done afterwards.

- Check for what may have or could cause an incident. If you think you have caused it call BCC call centre and report it!
- Bund the site properly and revise the sites water treatment capacity and systems
- Develop and implement a spill prevention and interruption strategy
- Prepare and educate all staff on the appropriate responses to environmental incidents
- Perform regular risk assessments of the site, for continual review of the sites procedures and improvement of responses

#### Why you should report an Environmental Incident.

Environments are diverse and support range of fauna and flora. It is, therefore, vital that any environmental incidents are reported to ensure that the balance between the environment and life it supports can remain unchanged.



## Reporting Environmental Incidents in Waterways-

A guide for local businesses in Brisbane

- What you should do to respond to an Environmental Incident.
- How the Brisbane City Council responds.
- How you can follow up an Environmental Incident report.
- The consequences for not cooperating in the management of Environmental Incidents.
- What can be done afterwards.
- Why you should report an Environmental Incident.



Oxley Creek Catchment Association  
Caring for our catchment

**CreekWATCH**

(07) 3278 2899

What you should do to respond to an Environmental incident.

- Ring Brisbane City Council Call Centre on 3403 8888 and say you would like to report an ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT
- Describe the spill into water or soil in or near a waterway as an 'ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT' TO ENSURE THE REPORT IS REFERRED TO THE Environmental Health Team
- Note as much information as possible (eg. time, location, visible discharge points, description of the contaminant or problem (oily, froth, odour, colour, fish kills etc.)
- If possible, take photos without putting yourself at risk- a picture speaks a thousand words
- ASK for and record a reference number- this will make it easier to follow up.

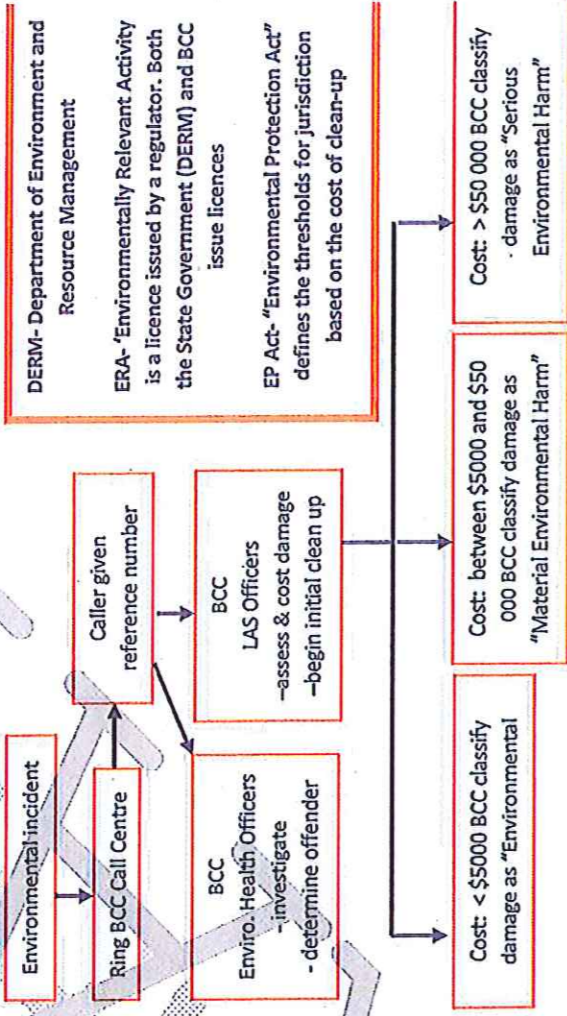
**How you can follow up an Environmental incident report.**

- If you logged an official complaint, quote the reference number to the Call Centre for an update;
- If you did not make the official complaint you can request the information you require through writing to Brisbane City Council.or;
- Request Freedom of Information Access (FOI) in writing to see the incident file for yourself.

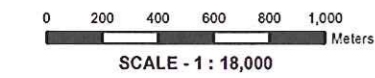
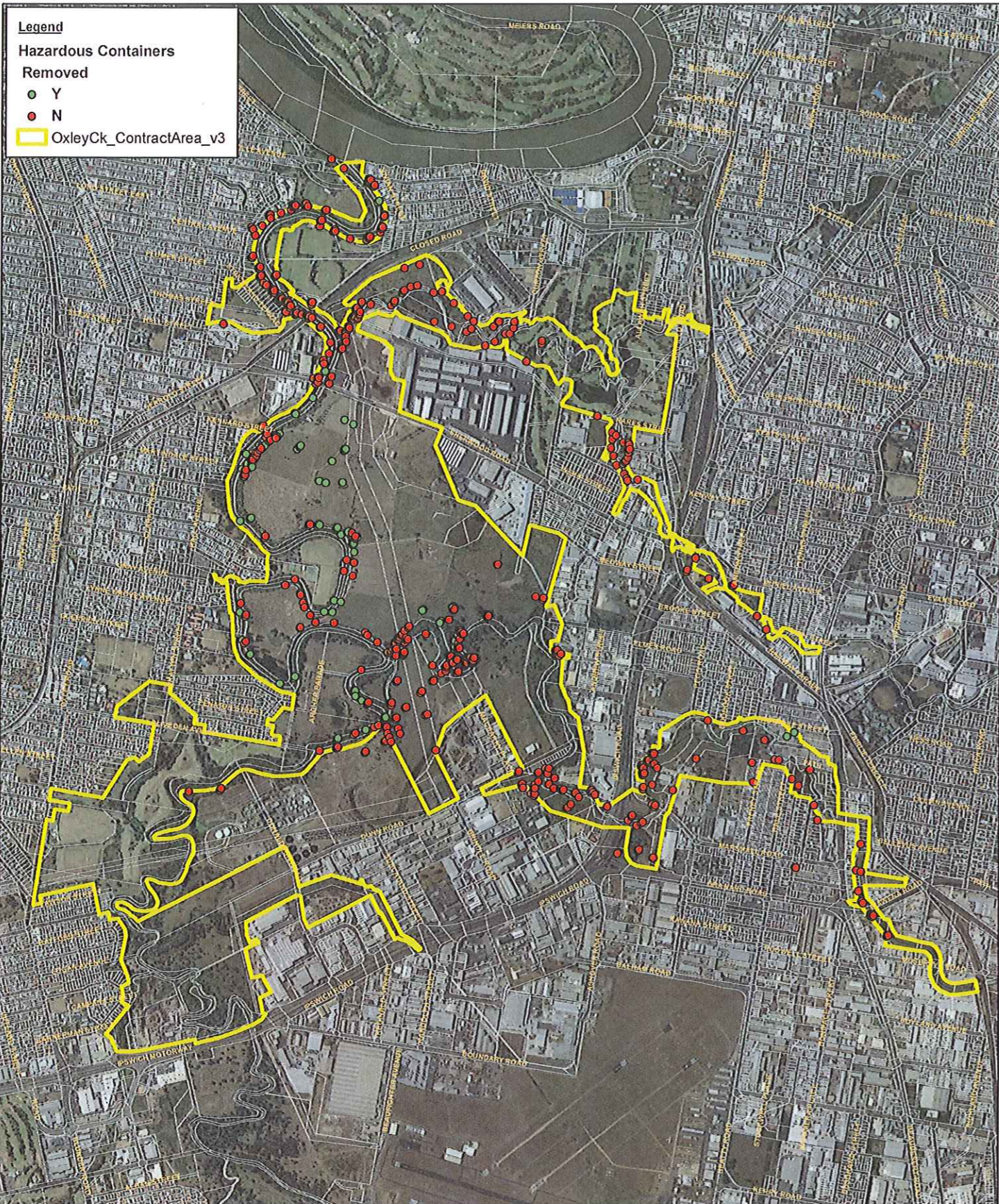
**How the Brisbane City Council responds.**

**Roles of those investigating the Environmental Incident**

- Local Assets Services officers (LAS) assist the investigation through assisting with access to pipes and manholes, and use remote controlled cameras to view constricted areas
  - Environmental/Health officers (EH) both investigate and take action on Environmental Incidents
- Investigation:** Samples are taken at the site, upstream of the site and at a discharge point if found. The water sample is checked to see if any parameters are outside the normal range. Photographic and other observations are also collected.
- Action:** Potential offenders are identified by land-use or from Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) list. After inspection of the offending sites the following may occur



The regulator of the ERA licence will usually undertake and complete the investigation. Both the State Government and BCC regulate ERA permits and licences.



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While every care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the data, the Department of Environment and Resource Management, and its contractors, do not accept any liability for the accuracy or completeness of the data, or for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies, or for any damage, loss, or injury, or for any consequences arising from the use of the data, or for any other reason.



Cadastre: Extracted February 2011  
 Vegetation: NA  
 Aerial Imagery: Captured 2009  
 Contours: NA  
 Drainage: NA  
 Datum: Horizontal: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94)  
 Vertical: Australian Height Datum (AHD)  
 Locality: Rocklea  
 Local Authority: Brisbane City Council  
 Produced by: RP&C, Landcentre

### Approximate Oxley Creek Work Area and Hazardous Container Locations

