

Natural Resource Management Issues in the Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment

Issues Affecting River Health

Riparian Areas including foreshore and estuarine

- Natural flow of the river
 - People's demand for drinking water
 - Agriculture's demand for irrigation water
 - Our need for protection from flooding
 - Ecological needs
- Increase in impervious surfaces – increased stormwater velocity and volumes
- Stock access to waterways (includes foreshore and estuarine areas)
- Uncontrolled / intense human access to and recreational use of waterways
- Inadequate / inappropriate access to river
- Excessive flows
- Flooding
- Mine tailings
- Ground water pollution
- Industrial and commercial pollutants
- Poor farming practices
- Lack of trees on banks, bank destabilisation



In Stream Condition

- Sewage disposal – areas serviced by Sydney Water
- Sewage disposal – smaller STPs and on-site systems
- Nutrient, sediment, pathogen input from stock and agriculture



Water Use

- Over allocation of water
- Excessive use of water in agricultural areas
- Inefficient use of water in urban areas



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Issues Affecting Biodiversity

Conservation of existing vegetation / habitat

- Loss of vegetation
- Loss of biodiversity and habitats
- Pressures on priority habitat corridors
- Urban encroachments/subdivision
- Climate Change
- Clearing
- Fire



Clearing of Native Vegetation – extent of vegetation / habitat including grasses and understorey

- Clearing of vegetation to support urban development
- Clearing associated with development in non-urban areas
eg; for house blocks/ access roads/ paddocks
- Clearing associated with Agricultural production



Degradation of condition of vegetation / habitat

- Recreational use of bushland – human influences on the bushland, urban interface
- Collection of firewood and bush rock



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Issues Affecting Soil and Land

Sustainable land management

- Lack of knowledge and understanding – eg; significance of feral animals, drought management, stocking rates etc – of value (economic and environmental benefits) of using sustainable farm management systems
- Lack of information to inform management practices eg; lack of detailed mapping of top and sub-soils
- Lack of resources to implement appropriate management regimes to its long term capability
- Sewerage disposal
- Waste from livestock and domestic animals
- Agricultural and garden fertiliser and chemicals
- Natural erosion from bushland
- Poor land use which encourages exotic and noxious plants
- People who introduce exotics eg; garden and aquatic plants and pets



Dry land salinity

- Lack of knowledge (scientific and community) regarding areas at risk from salinity, discharge/recharge areas, process that drive salinity



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Issues associated with Climate Change

- Altered climatic and rainfall patterns – generally drier in winter and spring, increased summer rain, intense storm conditions, increased evaporation rates, changed temperature patterns
- Inadequate knowledge of impacts of change to climate variation and variability
- Appropriateness of existing systems and management regimes under (more) variable climatic conditions

