

CLEAN WATERWAYS



An information guide from **STILL CREEK LANDCARE**



Clean water is important for our native plants and animals.

The water flowing in our local creeks comes from rain and from our own waste water. There are no flows coming in other than this, so we are responsible for the quality of the water in our catchment.

Most people in this catchment have a watercourse on their property or on that of a close neighbour. So what we do can have a quick impact.

The good news is our waterways are fairly clean, but not pristine and there are things we can do to make it better now and for the future.

Our water quality is important for life in the catchment and beyond.



Photo: Greg Miles

Healthy waterways encourage:

- Native vegetation and habitat
- Reduction of weeds that clog the system
- Micro-organisms that provide food for fish and yabbies
- Clean water for native animals who depend on the creeks
- Clean water for fish and oysters downstream in the Hawkesbury



Water Testing

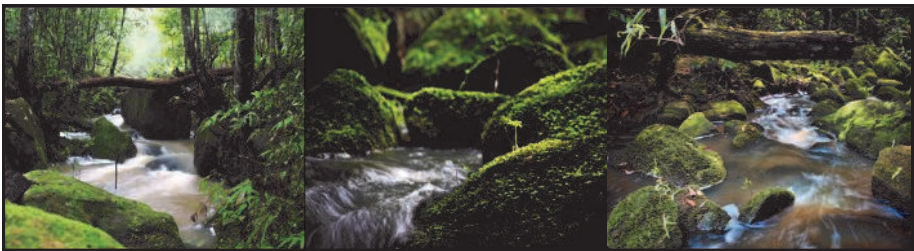
Water quality can deteriorate due to pollution getting into the water from things we do.

Landcare members have done over 100 series of tests at 3 main and 7 other catchment sites in last three years and compared them with ANZECC 2000 guidelines for lowland stream water quality for Australian low nutrient conditions.

These tests show that our creeks are fairly clean but could be better.

Some things we can all do to stop pollutants from entering our waterways:

- Use nil or low phosphorus cleaners and detergents
- Use fertilisers sparingly
- Maintain our septic systems in good condition and pump out when required
- Collect livestock manure and dispose of it thoughtfully
- Keep grazing animals away from waterways to prevent disturbing and eroding the soil and banks
- Dispose of aquarium waste away from waterways
- Let rain water flow gradually towards the creeks and through the ground to filter out some harmful substances



What we test for:

TEST FOR:	SOURCE
Nutrients eg phosphorus	Fertilisers, cleaners, detergents, sewage, animal waste. Nutrients are food for algae
Salts	The land (both naturally and when the land is disturbed), waste water, pool water, sewage and fertilisers
Acidity or alkalinity	Waste water and things we put on the soil
Dissolved oxygen	Lowered by decaying organic matter and by sewage and animal wastes
E coli bacteria	Human and animal waste
Sediment	Erosion of soil due to removal of vegetation

For information on these and other test results, see the website.

Would you like to assist in the testing?

Would you like to have the water in your creek tested?

If so and for more information, contact us at:

Website: www.stillcreeklandcare.com.au
Email: StillCreekLandcare@iinet.net.au
Phone: Nick Chartorisky 9653 2056
Mail: 31 Smalls Road Arcadia
Facebook: Still Creek Landcare



Water test equipment and materials have been provided by Sydney Water as part of the Streamwatch program. This publication has been funded by the Australian Government under a Caring for Our Country grant.

We are independent of government and other agencies but have the support of these organisations:



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY