LAKE BAROON CATCHMENT CARE GROUP

December 2011 E-Newsletter

Caring for Country Community Action Grants success.

Lake Baroon catchment Care Group has recently been notified of our success in receiving funding for Upper Lawley Creek Restoration.

The Commonwealth—funded project will control weeds in remnant vegetation and fence and revegetate 270 metres (1 hectare) of Lawley Creek.

We will address poor water quality in lake Baroon (the Sunshine coast's most important water supply) from grazing, erosion, sedimentation, urban development, habitat fragmentation, biodiversity decline and weed infestation.

The project will be implemented over three adjoining properties with area mapped as Essential Habitat for threatened species by DERM (EPBC vulnerable Macadamia ternifolia and Syzygium hodgkinsoniae.

Left: Upper Lawley Creek (a tributary of Bridge Creek) contains pockets of remnant rainforest and wet sclerophyll forest.

Catchment Care—not just planting trees

Cork Dairies Obi Obi Creek Laneway Rehabilitation is a project being implemented in the headwaters of the catchment on Maleny's largest dairy farm. Currently in the first year of implementation, the project is rehabilitating the properties' livestock laneways. During the extremely wet summer, sections of laneways became impassable for milking cows travelling to and from the dairy. Gutters formed in the laneways and each successive downpour washed sediments, nutrients and pathogens into the properties waterways. This (along with numerous other sources) contributed to Baroon Pocket Dam becoming especially turbid, significantly raising the cost of drinking water production.

Above: Cork Dairies laneways become impassable following heavy rainfall.

Laneways have been relocated from steep hill-slopes and riparian zones, profiled, and hardened using locally sourced roadbase that provides a durable surface requiring minimal maintenance. This improves stock movement and therefore property productivity. The next stage of the project will involve the installation of creek crossings, riparian fencing and off stream watering and will result in reduced erosion and sediment, nutrient and pathogen delivery into Obi Obi Creek.

"Environmental improvements are not just about planting trees—we can improve water quality in the catchment by working with landholders and using various solutions that provide win-win benefits," said LBCCG Coordinator Mark Amos.

The project is unique because Seqwater Water Quality scientists have established a comprehensive monitoring program on the property to measure and quantify the benefits for water quality through implementation of on ground activities. Through the use of an automated event monitoring station, monthly grab sampling and targeted sampling of cattle crossing the creek, accurate and detailed analysis of water quality improvements is being measured.

"The monitoring program is designed to show the cost-benefit of implementing on farm improvements particularly in relation to the cost of producing potable water", said Seqwater Northern Water Quality Coordinator Andrew Smolders.

LBCCG is committed to supporting landholders to keep their soil and nutrients on their paddocks where they belong.

For more information visit www.lbccg.org.au.