

31 January 2000

Mr Scott Greensill
CEO
Pittsworth Shire Council
PO Box 99
PITTSWORTH QLD 4356.

Dear Scott,

Re: Input into Planning Scheme Review

I understand following discussions with the Department of Natural Resources that Pittsworth Shire Council is in the preliminary stages of reviewing their Planning Scheme. As you would be aware, the Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA) is a key stakeholder in natural resource management issues within the Condamine Catchment (of which Pittsworth Shire is a part). I would like to extend our conversation (held on the 16th November 1999) where we discussed the potential involvement of the CCMA should Pittsworth Council begin its planning scheme review.

As mentioned, the CCMA has developed a strategic Plan which covers the entire Condamine Catchment area. The priority issues, which have been identified within this document and their associated goals are outlined below. We would like to recommend that Council consider these broad issue areas and goals during their planning scheme review.

Key Issue: Floodplain Management

Goals:

- Healthy, productive floodplains supporting sustainable natural resource use.
- Integrated and coordinated planning and management between the local community, state government agencies and local government.
- Development on the floodplain located to minimise overland flow concentration, diversion, land degradation and flood damage and to maintain historical flood flow patterns.
- Effective monitoring processes providing useful information for effective floodplain management.
- Comprehensive inventory of ecological, physical and cultural characteristics of floodplain areas.
- Adoption of better management practice, through community and education programs, to reduce adverse impacts on the floodplain and instream biota
- Floodplain hydrological cycle clearly documented and incorporated into planning and decision making.
- Legislation supporting appropriate development and equitable water sharing on the floodplain.

Key Issue: Water Access, Use and Management

Goals:

- To have a balance between consumptive and environmental use of water within the catchment, based on fair and equitable distribution of the resource.
- Develop and implement an overall plan addressing management and allocation issues associated with all uses of surface (including overland and instream flows) and ground waters to achieve sustainable use.

Key Issue: Water Quality

Goals:

- To maintain and where possible improve the water quality in the catchment.
- To identify and protect water quality for agricultural, urban, industrial and environmental uses, including protection of ecosystems
- To establish a balance between land uses within the catchment and maintaining water quality
- To coordinate water quality monitoring throughout the catchment.
- Develop and implement a permanent water quality monitoring program to reliably assess water quality condition and trend
- Develop issue specific plans to implement best management practices for the protection of water quality
- Develop local water quality objectives for the catchment.
- To address the water quality of environmental flows

Key Issue: Riparian Zone Management

Goals:

- To enhance the ecological values (physical and biological) and the condition of in-stream and riparian zones within the catchment
- To maintain and enhance the condition and ecological values of riparian zones across the catchment

Key Issue: Land Use and Management

Goals:

- To maintain and improve the balance between economic viability and ecologically sustainable use of the land resources throughout the Catchment
- Increase the understanding and adoption of sustainable land management practices in rural and urban areas

Key Issue: Pest Animals and Weeds

Goals:

- To manage weeds and pest animals on a catchment scale, to minimise their impact on natural ecosystems and agricultural production.
- Develop and implement an overall plan to undertake weed and pest animal management in a strategic manner to maintain or enhance environmental values, agricultural production and catchment health.

Key Issue: Nature Conservation

Goals:

- To integrate nature conservation with other land management practices so that biodiversity within the catchment is maintained or improved
- Maintained or enhanced catchment biodiversity, with nature conservation incorporated into land management systems at the property, sub-catchment and catchment level

Key Issue: Waste Management

Goals:

- To minimise all wastes and their impact on the soil, water and vegetation of the Condamine Catchment
- To promote personal responsibility for waste management and waste minimisation by all sectors of the catchment community

The CCMA is very keen to see a greater alignment between the strategic directions for each of the key catchment stakeholders. The CCMA would appreciate being directly contacted by Council should any additional opportunities arise for stakeholder input during the planning scheme review process. All correspondence can be directed to Catherine Potter, CCMA Coordinator, PO Box 318, Toowoomba Q4350. Alternatively I can be contacted by phone on 4688 1157, fax 4633 2701 or email: potterc@dnr.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Potter

Coordinator – Condamine Catchment Management Association Inc.