

13<sup>th</sup> December 1999

Tina Katsanevas  
Queensland Department of Local Government, and Planning, incorporating Rural Communities  
Western and Central Queensland Planning Division  
Level 12, 111 George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000.

**FAX: 3235 4586**

Dear Tina,

**Re: Statement of Proposal to amend the Toowoomba City Planning Scheme**

Thankyou for forwarding a copy of the proposal from Toowoomba City Council that identifies changes to their Planning Scheme to recognise the Council's stormwater drainage and catchment management strategies for review by the Condamine Catchment Management Association (CCMA). Whilst the CCMA believes the incorporation of stormwater drainage and catchment management is critical, we would like to submit the following comments for consideration.

**Introduction**

*Catchment Management*

- It may be more useful to recognise catchment management *principles* when planning for and considering future development.
- Does the referral to catchment strategies relate to those specifically based on Toowoomba's waterways or does it cover those developed which cover all of Toowoomba as part of another region eg the Condamine Catchment Strategic Plan? We believe it is essential that the Condamine Catchment Strategic Plan is recognised in the catchment planning framework for Toowoomba City Council. It is important that Council recognises the potential impact by the City on the Condamine Catchment and thus needs to consider the goals and objectives which have been acknowledged by the Condamine Catchment community.

**Core Matters to be addresses by the Planning Scheme Amendment**

*Land Use and Development*

The provision of measures to minimise any potential impact need to be reviewed and implemented as development grows in a particular area. It would be of great benefit for measures such as detention basins and adequate drainage systems to be provided during the development phase rather than as a result of the development phase.

*Infrastructure*

It is important to minimise any ecological impact to the creek resulting from stormwater discharge. Potential impacts include increases in sediment within the creek, erosion of creek banks, increases in nutrient loads etc. Drainage waters need to be delivered to the creek system in a manner that will not increase it's degradation, to maintain and if possible enhance habitat values and visual amenity. This may be aided by the combined use of soft and hard engineering measures when addressing drainage issues.

*Valuable features*

If integrated catchment management principles are applied when planning for and reviewing developments, it is likely that waterways and associated terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, watercourse channels, and amenity issues will be addressed. The points highlighted above relating to infrastructure, are also applicable in this category for Council's consideration. Finally, Council could undertake a commitment to not only develop and enhance the City's waterways and catchments (for drainage purposes) but to ensure that the ecological integrity of the '*natural*' systems within the city area is maintained and/or enhanced.

Yours sincerely,

**Catherine Potter**  
**Coordinator – Condamine Catchment Management Association Inc.**