

## COMET WATERWAY ECOLOGICAL VALUES - STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

(Springsure, 11 February 2010)

HEV = high ecological value waters; SD = slightly disturbed waters; MD = moderately disturbed waters

SUMMARY OF AREAS CONTAINING POTENTIAL HEV/SD WATERS	Stakeholder views	Additional comments by stakeholders
<p><b>Waters in National Parks</b></p> <p><u>Values:</u> Protected estate.</p>	See below	<p>The following comments were raised in several catchment workshops:</p> <p>1) Fire management: stakeholders considered that in NPs/SFs there was a lesser frequency of burning leading to fuel build up and more intensive burns, with consequentially more apparent impacts on ecosystems.</p> <p>2) Feral pest (animals, weeds) management: stakeholders considered NPs were a source of feral pest species, although the effects of these on water quality were not known.</p> <p>3) Local consultation/data: Stakeholder views were based on local knowledge but they recommended more consultation with NP/forest managers to confirm assessments and check availability of water quality data for creeks in each area to determine if any effects on instream values.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carnarvon NP (upper southwestern headwaters of catchment – also extends into Upper Nogoa)</li> </ul>	HEV	<p>Previous cattle station use in some areas. Sections of NP include Goodliffe, Salvator Rosa, Ka Ka Mundi, Deepdale. Mt Moffat is actually on west side of border (but stakeholders thought it was HEV too).?</p> <p>Area also contains sites of cultural/spiritual value.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expedition NP (south east of catchment - also extends into upper Dawson)</li> </ul>	HEV	<p>(Upper Dawson stakeholders felt Expedition NP in their catchment was SD-HEV, with some previous grazing).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humboldt NP (eastern upper catchment tributaries of Humboldt Ck eg Scrubbers and Washpool gullies)</li> </ul>	MD-SD?	<p>Previously grazed. Stakeholders felt the duration and level of grazing had affected its naturalness.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackdown Tablelands NP (east of catchment – also in lower Dawson)</li> </ul>	HEV	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minerva Hills NP (west of catchment)</li> </ul>	HEV	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albinia NP (central catchment)</li> </ul>	<p>West side: MD or highly disturbed?</p> <p>East side: HEV</p>	<p>Stakeholders considered that impacts from upstream landuses (eg mine) had altered flows in Bootes/Meteor Cks, so these should be excluded from the unaltered (HEV) components on the east side. (Also exclude CP from HEV.)</p>

DRAFT, BASED ON CONSULTATIONS IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 2010 – NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Nuga Nuga NP</li> </ul>	SD	Stakeholders said the area had been previously grazed but has now recovered to good condition. Still some non remnant areas, and riparian zone has been altered to some degree. Intent is for protection of blue grass habitat. Effects on WQ?. Another question is whether the lake is 'natural'. Comment made that the lake was not there until 1931.
<p><b>Possible extra HEV waterways for workshop consideration/discussion:</b></p> <p>(anti-clockwise starting in S)</p> <p>1) South: Extension of Carnarvon NP HEV waters in far south to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boxvale SF waterways (mainly in upper Dawson)</li> <li>Waters of Bandana SF (immediately downstream of NP)</li> <li>Sercold SF waters (Taranguay Ck headwaters - further downstream of NP – possible landuses between NP and this SF)</li> </ul>	Boxvale SF = HEV mainly in Comet catchment Bandana SF = HEV Sercold SF = HEV	Very small area. Comet part is HEV  Some logging but on balance stakeholders thought waterways = HEV.
<p>2) South east: Extension of Expedition NP HEV waters in south east to include headwaters in Presho SF (extends to upper Dawson)</p>	?	Defer to Upper Dawson workshop.
<p>3) East: extension of Humbolt NP HEV waters (in east of catchment) to include adjacent downstream Humboldt SF waterways.</p>	Not HEV	
<p>4) North east - east: extension of Blackdown Tablelands NP HEV waters to include eastern catchment headwaters in the following SFs (also bordering lower Dawson workshop area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shotover SF (headwaters of Planet Ck — adjacent south of NP)</li> <li>Expedition SF (south of Shotover SF: headwaters of Central, Spring, Emu Cks)</li> <li>Mt Nicholson SF waters (south of Expedition SF – headwaters)</li> </ul>	Shotover = SD? Expedition = HEV(Comet Catchment part)  Mt Nicholson = HEV(Comet catchment part)	Effects of grazing? Extends into Lower Dawson.  Extends into Lower Dawson.
<p>5) North: waterways in Amaroo SF, in north of catchment - headwaters of Triumph, Boundary Cks. (Extends into Mackenzie catchment)</p>	No decision	
<p>6) West: Mt Hope SF waters (western catchment tribs of Bootes, Sandy Creeks, west of Comet R)</p>	SD – HEV?	

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7) Others? , eg waters in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mt Pleasant SF,</li> <li>• Cairdbeign SF,</li> <li>• Albinia CP</li> </ul>	SD - HEV? Cairdbeign = SD – HEV? Not HEV or SD	Similar to Mt Hope SF .
<b>Other ecological assets</b>		
Medway Ck		Parkinsonia is degrading water courses →. Management action needed
20 Mile waterhole in Meteor Ck	waterhole (barramundi?)	West Comet. Also referred to as 22 Mile waterhole.
Freitag Ck waterhole	waterhole	South of Springsure near road.
Offstream lakes/wetlands	ecological values	
Traswells property waterhole	waterhole	In Comet?