

UPPER DAWSON WATERWAY ECOLOGICAL VALUES - STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

(Taroom, 16 February 2010, and Injune, 18 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>Waters in National Parks</p> <p><u>Values:</u> Protected estate. Carnarvon NP extends into Comet catchment. Expedition NP links to other estate (discussed below) which links it to Palmgrove NP (Scientific) in lower Dawson workshop area.</p>	<p>See below</p>	<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"> • Carnarvon NP (largely in Comet workshop area, but with links to protected estate in upper Dawson) 	<p>HEV over 90%</p>	<p>Mt Moffatt section more disturbed and probably SD. Previously some cattle, brumbies.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amalgamation of Expedition NP (Robinson Ck, Baffle/Dawson R junction) & Palmgrove NP Scientific (Palmgrove NP mainly in lower Dawson) 	<p>SD / HEV</p>	<p>Some stakeholders referred to sections of Expedition NP as ‘Lonesome’ NP.</p> <p>This area has been previously stocked but is now returning towards a natural condition. Expedition NP has excellent spring, Aboriginal art. Stakeholders mentioned possible effects of brumbies on springs in this area (SD?), and some weeds (parthenium, buffel grass).</p> <p>Check effects of buffel grass/increased fire risk on water quality in the NP.</p> <p>Also seek comment from Lower Dawson stakeholders (Palmgrove NP is on border.)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isla Gorge NP (Gorge Ck, extending into lower Dawson workshop area) 	<p>SD/ any HEV?</p>	<p>Limited effects by visitors. However, there was concern that this NP is downstream of cleared areas under human activity (eg a feedlot in the SW ?). Effects of these activities in terms of erosion/sedimentation were raised by stakeholders. Seek more local input from Parks managers. This NP also has links to a Nature Refuge Property (border with Lower Dawson).</p> <p>Also seek comment from Lower Dawson stakeholders as NP is on border.</p>

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

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Possible extra HEV waterways for workshop consideration/discussion: (west→central→south)		
1) West 1: extension of waters in Carnarvon NP to include Boxvale SF waters (in upper Dawson)	SD→HEV	Relatively natural, restrictions on removal of cycads, other vegetation.
2) West 2: Upper Baffle Ck. review waters in Forrest SF, Doonkuna SF as HEV	Forrest SF = HEV? Dookkuna SF = SD	General comment: higher naturalness in upper reaches (north/west) trending to more modified as go downstream (south/east). Need to establish cut off. Sardine Ck was potentially more disturbed
3) Central: Extension of Expedition NP/Isla Gorge NP HEV waters to include waters in adjacent estate mainly in upper catchment areas:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central: Presho FR (between Expedition and Palmgrove NP Scientific), Presho SF (headwaters between Presho FR and Expedition NP – Walangara Ck) 	Presho FR = SD? Presho SF = SD?	Rating in these areas is based on previous grazing. Need to determine if this has affected water quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South: Belington Hut SF (around Robinson Ck and extends to upper Dawson R), and Expedition Resources Reserve 	Belington Hut SF = SD Exped RR = SD	Rating for Belington Hut SF based on previous logging, property management and possible brumbies. Expedition RR is basically as per the adjacent Expedition NP (based on earlier dam proposal so designation was made RR). Some brumbies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West: Beilba SF (Hutton Ck/upper Dawson R), 	HEV	In good condition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East: Theodore SF (upper Gorge, Narowie, Little Twalka Cks) 	Unsure – SD?	Seek comment from Lower Dawson stakeholders as SFs are closer to them.
4) South (a): Injune Ck (south side): review waters in Hallett, Stephenton SFs as HEV	SD	Management issues associated with SF roads being washed out.
5) South (b): southern upper headwaters - review waters in smaller SFs at top of catchment as HEV, including Barton Ck (Woodduck SF), Horse Ck (Coombabula SF), Juandah Ck (Cherwondah, Gurulmundi SF), Roche Ck (Barakula SF)	Woodduck = SD Coombabula = SD? Emu SF = ? (limited info) Gurulmundi SF = SD-HEV Cherwondah SF = SD/MD North BarakulaSF = SD South Barakula = SD Cooaga SF = SD Mundell SF = MD in west, ?? in east	Check if any WQ data for all these SFs. Cattle and buffel grass effects, so probably MD. South Barakula = minor logging and brumbies. Cattle in Mundell west.

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6) South (c): waters in other small SFs (lower down in catchment – eg in Juandah, Mt Organ SFs)	Dineun SF = ? (limited info) Mt Organ SF = HEV? Hinchley SF = HEV Juandah SF = SD	
7) CPs: Lake Murphy CP (central south), Carraba CP	SD? HEV	Lake Murphy fed from Robinson Ck overflow. Good WQ and distinct vegetation (palms, coolibah, <i>Cadellia pentastylis</i> = Ooline), waterbirds + historical link to Leichhardt (camp site). Upstream catchment effects? Carraba CP – good condition
Other ecological assets		
Platypus		All through the system
Riverine corridor from Glebe weir upstream	High value	Good riparian area. Also junction with Palmtree Creek. Stakeholders thought that this could be affected by Nathan Dam (ie 60km of riparian corridor affected)
Carp-free catchment	High value	Risks from carp crossing into catchment from MDB system ('melon holes' area in south of catchment – area captured on mapping by FBA)
Boggomosses	Groundwater-fed communities	In various locations and listed on National Estate
Springs	High value	Eg springs in Hullo/Hudlow? Ck/Dawson interface. Potential threats from gasfield activities (test drilling)
Native fish	High value	Risks from barriers/altered flows on fish breeding triggers eg yellowbelly. Need for fish tracking? Important fish = the saratoga and Yellowbelly

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