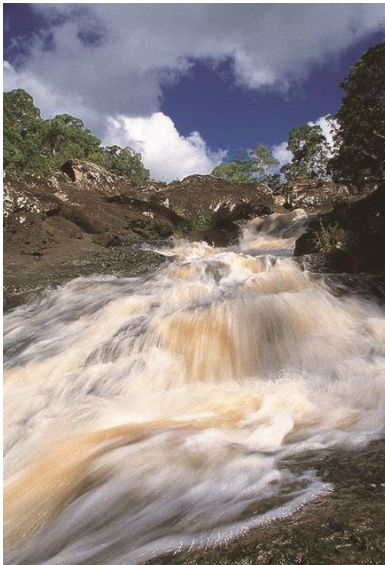




CARING FOR CATCHMENTS - GOING WITH THE FLOW



Water flowing over land moves downhill towards our local creeks and waterways, and carries with it chemicals, rubbish and uncovered soil.

Therefore, it is important to realise what we do in the catchment affects the health of our creeks and rivers – *from where we wash our car, what chemicals are used on gardens, leaving rubbish lying around, what and where we plant and whether we leave soil exposed after landscaping or building.*

When water runoff is contaminated with chemicals, litter or soil, native animals and plants in local waterways are put under threat. The amount of rainfall determines how much mud, chemicals and rubbish are carried through the stormwater drains and into local creeks.

Frogs can be a great indicator of the health of waterways and can tell us something about the place they call home. This can be a reassuring message that all is well with their place or a call for help to nurse their waterway back to health.

HEARING THE CALL - WHAT CAN WE DO?

RUBBISH

- ◆ Put rubbish in the right bin and make sure it's secure – overflowing bins can release litter into the environment
- ◆ Ensure balloons are not released into the environment
- ◆ Explore environmentally friendly ways to celebrate
- ◆ Pick up litter when possible and remind others to put rubbish in the right bin
- ◆ Carry a bag for litter
- ◆ Compost food scraps rather than disposing of them down the sink to reduce the load on the sewerage system
- ◆ Make the most of reusable drink and food containers



Plastic is the most significant form of waterway litter. It breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces, with adverse impacts on many aquatic animals.

SOIL

- 💧 Plant native vegetation in the backyard and along creeks and rivers to protect the soil and provides habitat for native animals
- 💧 Sweep and pick up dirt rather than hosing it away
- 💧 Use mulch on gardens to prevent soil runoff
- 💧 Water the garden with the necessary pressure to avoid soil runoff
- 💧 Put in place erosion and sediment control if exposing soil when landscaping or building
- 💧 Use a [rain garden](#) in your backyard to reduce stormwater pollution
- 💧 Report muddy water runoff from construction sites to council

When mud is washed off building sites and backyards into our waterways and oceans it can smother and kill aquatic plant life, reducing the amount of food for fish, turtles and dugongs. A mud layer in waterways and oceans will negatively impact the animals and plants that live there. Activities which disturb the soil and leave it uncovered, such as landscaping and renovations, can increase the amount of mud that is washed off your property and into local waterways.

CHEMICALS

- 💧 Avoid applying garden fertilisers, pesticides or chemicals if heavy rain is predicted
- 💧 Do not pour household chemicals like oil and paint into gutters or down stormwater drains
- 💧 Wash small amounts of left over water-based paint a garden bed if necessary
- 💧 Keep harmful chemicals in waterproof containers and storing them up high
- 💧 Wash your car on the lawn rather than the driveway or use an eco-friendly car wash facility
- 💧 Use eco-friendly, low phosphorous household cleaning products
- 💧 Dispose of household chemicals correctly. [Sunshine Coast Council Resource Recovery Centres](#) will take hazardous domestic chemicals and paint

Household and gardening products (such as paint, oil and fertiliser) contain a range of toxins that can kill aquatic wildlife. During heavy rain, chemicals and fertilisers can enter our waterways if they haven't been applied or stored properly. Such chemicals can have severe impacts, like fish kills and toxic algal blooms and should never be tipped down stormwater drains or dumped near waterways even if diluted.

LOVE AND LEARN

- 💧 Enjoy the waterways of the Maroochy River catchment
- 💧 Get involved with your local catchment group



The Maroochy River catchment provides many great opportunities for enjoyment and recreation. We can all help to protect the Maroochy River catchment for future generations to enjoy through simple everyday actions.