



10th August, 2016

MEMORANDUM

A call to strengthen protection measures to adequately protect creek catchments.

At the Meet the Creeks Forum on 18 June, 2016, thirty-five local participants gathered to visit, learn and share their knowledge about three creek catchments: Ludmilla, Sandy and Mitchell Creeks. Most of the participants were experienced land and creek carers, having been involved in advocating for and restoring the health of one or more of the creeks for decades. People value creek catchments because of the aesthetic and recreational benefits they bring to communities, and for the environmental services they provide to the broader landscape. At the Forum participants listened to environmental experts, shared information, voiced concerns, and posed solutions to the most concerning threats to creek health.

The primary concern voiced by Forum participants was the need to strengthen protection, zoning, monitoring and enforcement measures to adequately protect the biodiversity and water quality of creek catchments; and for governments at all levels to more actively support and resource the protection of catchments.

CreekWatch is a community project hosted by the Environment Centre NT and funded by the NT Environmental Protection Authority. It commenced in February this year when it engaged a Community Reference group to gather community concerns and suggestions for monitoring activities that could improve creek health. It established an independent Scientific Reference Group that considered the community proposals, provided monitoring advice, catchment and land use maps, support documents and networking links. At targeted information sessions with scientists and meetings with land managers and developers, community groups shared information about their concerns and developed networks that could assist them to protect their creek catchments. The project motivated and empowered community members to monitor aspects of their catchments and report on creek health issues. These CreekWatch communities are keen to see active support for catchment protection in the next term of government.

We look forward to any commitment you can make to further the protection of creek catchments. I will pass responses to this Memorandum to the communities and distribute the final CreekWatch report and detailed recommendations to you at the end of August.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin MacGillivray', is written in a cursive style.

Robin MacGillivray,
Project Coordinator, CreekWatch
Environment Centre NT.