

Restoring Burnt Bridge Creek, Sydney

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A systems approach to stream restoration

This case study shows how AWT's systems approach can be used to develop a stream restoration plan. This approach logically orders the tasks of planning, design, construction and operation. There is an underlying ecological philosophy and the plan itself is based upon multiple objectives.

Why restore?

Burnt Bridge Creek is the last remaining relatively natural watercourse in the Sydney suburb of Manly. It suffers typical urban impacts such as:

- urban and industrial encroachment
- channelling and disturbance from road construction
- weed invasion
- pollution (including sewage overflows)
- erosion, and
- sedimentation.

Planning process

AWT worked closely with the Burnt Bridge Creek Taskforce (drawn from local and state government bodies and community representatives) to prepare a management plan.

The project team identified creek values and the issues affecting their protection or restoration by consulting the community, investigating the site and reviewing the available information.

The team formulated objectives and performance targets in facilitated workshops with community and Taskforce members. Specific actions were framed for comparison with overall performance targets.

Actions in the plan are linked to conceptual graphic landscape plans produced for the length of the creek corridor. Public exhibition of these plans gained widespread further community support for the project.

Outcomes

The plan provides a valuable link between the overall local government planning process and an effective ordered set of actions and on-ground works for restoring the creek and its corridor.

The Taskforce is using the plan to prioritise and coordinate works programs and to attract funding from government stormwater initiatives.

Many coordinated actions (including bush regeneration, bank stabilisation and structural design) are now underway.

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