



2021-11-18-points for discussion with ARC-emailed to ARC prior to meeting

Our associations aim: To assist in the careful planning, design and development of beautiful, healthy and safe public spaces featuring wetlands, lagoons and billabongs, connected by flowing water along the Armidale Creeklands.

Visions for Armidale Creeklands – our community group

- Has credibility in the community, works in a transparent and collaborative fashion, whose members have over 2,200 years of lived experience in the region.
- Is effective: Council's resolution in June 2017 to fund the Creeklands Master Plan consultancy followed our presentation to the former Administrator, Dr Ian Tiley.
- Enjoys very good support from our local member, Mr Adam Marshall

Our concerns

- Our concerns on the draft Creeklands Master Plan were inadequately addressed in the adopted Plan
- In the past, Council has approved construction of the former Big W and, in spite of our pleas in 2017 (“ensure ... no buildings are constructed within the flood zone”), has more recently approved a new large motel.

Our current activities

- We continue to make progress with our planning for the Viv May-approved Black Gully Creek Billabongs project (behind NERAM and the ACCKP) with recycling of water upstream. We thank Council for their assistance with this project - especially the excellent help from Andrew Strudwick (project management) and Sam Burns (GIS data).
- We have conducted a survey of our members that shows serious community concerns about the implementation plan adopted by Council for Stage 1 of the Master Plan.
- We continue to lobby for environmental water flowing through our city. As we stated in our submission on the draft Master Plan: “As soon as resources permit, the scope of planning needs to be extended beyond the limited geographical area covered by the draft Master Plan and should also include exploring how the original natural flow rates along the Creeklands can be restored through water engineering”.

Our future interactions with Council

- We want to see the best outcomes with the Stage 1 implementation.
- We would like to see some of the Stage 1 contingency funds be used for a follow-up consultancy to examine a ‘whole of catchment’ plan for water flows into, through and beyond Armidale so that we better understand the risks and opportunities for Armidale.
- We wish to establish a key strategic aim for Council and the community of seeing more healthy water residing in and flowing through Armidale (as wetlands, pools, riffles, streams and billabongs).
- We seek an ongoing collaborative, transparent and constructive approach to planning for the Armidale creeklands and hope that Council management and staff are willing to have us work with them in this manner.
- We would like to establish a key contact within Armidale Regional Council who is broadly supportive of some of the visions of water that our association dreams of.