

Crows Nest Creek Catchment Group

The Crows Nest Creek Catchment has an area of 140 square kilometres. It is based on Crows Nest Creek, from its origins on the eastern escarpment of the Great Dividing Range to its inflow into Cressbrook Dam, which is Toowoomba's main water supply dam (the dam outflow follows Cressbrook Creek to join the Brisbane River east of Toogoolawah, above the Wivenhoe Dam).

Perseverance Creek, Bald Hills Creek, Old Womans Hut Creek, Back Creek and a number of unnamed tributaries join Crows Nest Creek. Rocky Creek flows into Old Womans Hut Creek.

The catchment is bounded on the west by the Cooby Creek Catchment (part of the Murray Darling Basin), on the south by the rough country of the Perseverance Creek catchment, and to the north by the Upper Emu Creek Catchment.

The town of Crows Nest is in the centre of the catchment. Crows Nest Creek and Bald Hills Creek flow through the town. The catchment is bisected by the New England Highway which connects Toowoomba and the South Burnett.



Crows Nest Creek member Graham Rogers explaining creek restoration work to visitors from India

The priority issues identified in the 1999 catchment action plan

- **Water Quality:** water from the catchment reaches Cressbrook dam which supplies Crows Nest and Toowoomba with drinking water, and eventually runs in to the Brisbane River. There is concern about silting, salinity, effluent control, algal blooms, riparian issues, fish and aquatic wildlife populations.

- **Vegetation Management:** concern about management of native and improved pasture for ecological sustainability, particularly weed management. Preservation and restoration of remnant native vegetation and the corridors connecting them.
- **Soil Stability and Fertility:** erosion and areas needing construction or repair of contour banks, soil structure and fertility, high traffic areas.
- **Waste Management:** concern about contamination of drinking water by farm chemicals; leaching from landfill and septics; business and industrial waste; runoff from town streets. Concern about the spreading of weeds from landfill.
- **Wildlife and Nature Conservation:** coordinated approach to threatened flora and fauna; feral animals; degradation of habitats eg. for platypus, Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby.