

## Substance run off at creek on Dulong School Road

Council would like to inform the community about an incident that occurred on Wednesday 14 June on Dulong School Road during scheduled maintenance works designed to control sediment and prevent erosion.

We wish to apologise for this incident and recognise the concern this may have caused residents. This incident was unrelated to operations of the nearby Dulong Quarry.

### Notification of substance run off into creek on Dulong School Road

A sediment control product was sprayed on the surface of a roadside embankment along Dulong School Road. Council workers had installed environmental control measures including coir logs, silt socks, rock drain outlets and applied a soil stabilisation product around the site, however a portion of the substance unintentionally ran off into the creek.

The substance was an environmentally friendly (non-toxic) erosion control product called GRT: Enviro Binder which contained vegetable-based green pigment, resulting in dispersion of green colouration to the creek water.

### Response and reactionary measures

Council's Environmental and Rapid Response teams were immediately called to the location and applied containment measures including absorbency pads and bunds to contain run off into the creek. Vacuum trucks also removed excess product from the ground surface.

Property owners granted access to Council Officers for observation and water testing purposes. Council thanks property owners for their assistance to allow for ongoing monitoring and testing the water at these locations.

### Update as at Monday 31 July 2023

Council engaged the services of an ecologist to undertake assessments at the site. The ecologist reported:

- No mortality or other apparent impacts to aquatic fauna were observed during the monitoring.
- Several aquatic vertebrates and invertebrates were seen in and around the creek during monitoring, and numerous native birds were observed in and around the creek.
- The dye present in the water during the first monitoring effort has largely dissipated by the time of the second and third monitoring events.

Communication to residents occurred and extensive stakeholder engagement from internal and external specialists was undertaken, including SCC Waterway specialists, external ecologists, the Department of Environment and Science (DES), the product manufacturer, and external environmental groups for notification of impacts.

Council will continue to actively identify all environmental risk factors with our works on an ongoing basis to manage and protect the environment.

### Further information

Questions and requests for further information can be directed to Customer Contact on (07) 5475 7272 or [mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au)