

program for commercial and industrial premises.

REPORT IMPLICATIONS:

• ***Environmental***

The implementation of a Rehabilitation Plan for Gills Bridge Creek will improve the ecological condition of the Creek. Specifically, the Plan will aim to improve the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff, eradicate (where possible) and control the spread of weeds, conserve riparian vegetation and important fauna habitats, enhance flow and connectivity and improve water quality within the Creek.

• ***Social***

The Rehabilitation Plan for Gills Bridge Creek encourages involvement from the local community, industry and business groups. An important part of the rehabilitation plan will be to educate the public and encourage a Total Catchment Management (TCM) aware, involved and practising community. Rehabilitation of Gills Bridge Creek will help to create a sense of pride and improved community cooperation, encouraging people to live more harmoniously and sustainably within their Catchment.

• ***Economic (Financial)***

Council will need to provide funding resources to implement at least some of the key actions outlined in the rehabilitation plan as reflected in the Draft ESD Strategy. In order to implement the balance of the recommended actions Council has applied for grant funding through the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) Urban Sustainability Program, a sub program of the Environmental Trust - NSW City and Country Environmental Restoration Program.

• ***Policy or Statutory***

Nil

• ***Directors Review***

Adoption of the Plan does not oblige Council to fund the implementation of the plan which will require external funding. Environmental Levy funds may be utilised and projects such as this may be used to justify an extension of the levy beyond 2007/08.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Final Gills Bridge Creek Rehabilitation Plan be adopted by Council.

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R B Pitt
DIRECTOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

