Managing South East Queensland’s waterways

A focus on values
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Research question

How can an understanding of people’s values be incorporated into the management of Moreton Bay and its catchments?
How we explored the research question...

Team project – ARC Linkage with state government, Healthy Waterways, SEQ Catchments, Traditional custodians

Primary data

Interviews on Indigenous and non-Indigenous people’s values towards waterways in the upper and lower catchments and Moreton Bay, management comments: Katherine Witt, Natalie Jones, Breanna Pinner, Sylvie Shaw

Management analysis

Desk analysis drawing on historical materials, policy analysis, interviews: Dave Rissik, Helen Ross, interview team
Management is carved up:

- Fisheries, marine park management, shipping and maritime safety, all under separate legislation, policy and organisations, yet in the same space – ‘parallel play’ (similar with urban and environmental planning)
- Rivers separated from marine
- Management is more focused on control and compliance, than appealing positively
- Management is understood in a limited way – low recognition of Aboriginal custodianship, stewardship groups
- Little role for the general public

Opportunities lie in:

- Seeing through the public’s eyes (e.g. upper catchments expectation of local management)
- Appeal through the extent that values are shared – the conflict is largely imagined
- Manage for all 10 values, aligned with ecological values and system needs (shifts emphasis, communicates why)
- An embracing view of ‘management’ – including Traditional Owners, voluntary groups
The ‘global change’ aspect of my water research

Environmental values are typically presented as features of the physical environment. Environmental management tends to focus on these

Taking the social science view of ‘values’ being held by people, and the deepest and most enduring form of cognition, opens new way of thinking about management of environments

- Opportunity for positive appeal – work with people around how they value (not just what they value)
- Design (e.g. of protected areas, rules), communication and education, compliance, can all build around people’s values – to be more effective
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References:


http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol21/iss1/art15/