



Snobs Creek Water Quality Monitoring Report.

Rainfall Event 1-5-19 to 3-5-19

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Introduction

The Harvesting Operations in the Snobs Creek Valley have caused ongoing community concern around water quality in Snobs Creek. The Coupes Pooh Bear, Impala, Snobs 13 and Snobs 14 have been active this season and standard water quality protection have been applied as is required. Snobs 13 and Snobs 14 due to their close proximity, approximately 100 meters to Snobs Creek at its closest point had addition measures including modified coupe access and silt traps installed to further protect water quality values.

Rainfall Event

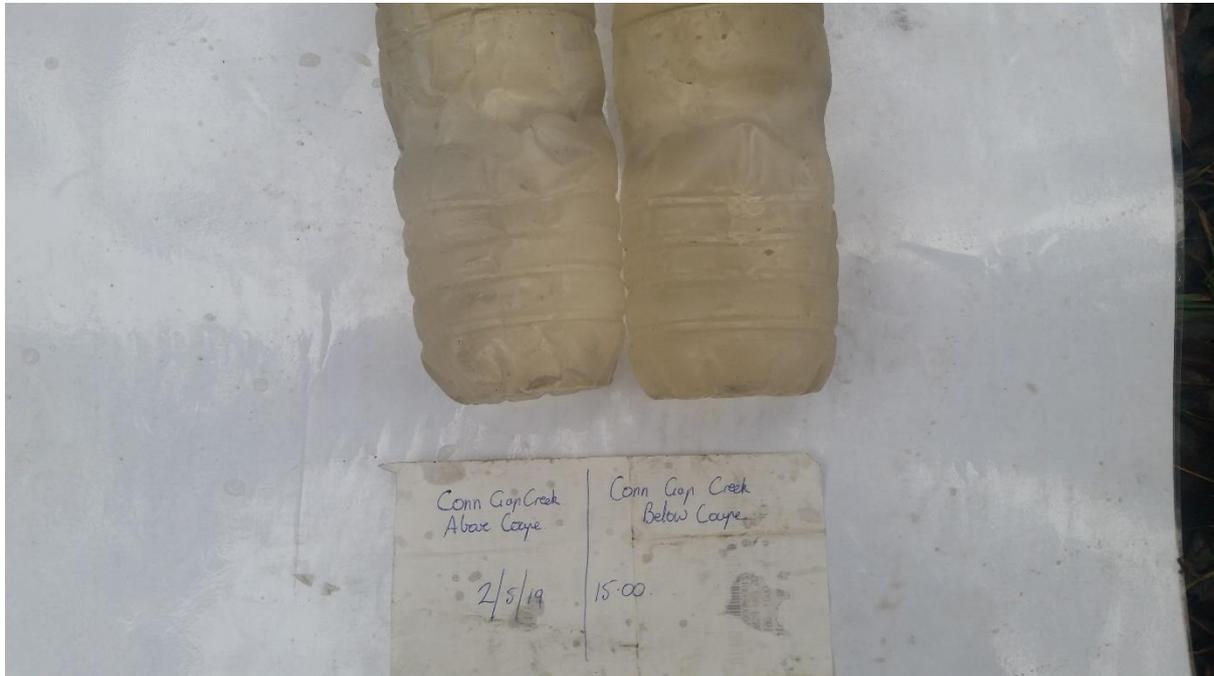
In late April the Bureau of Meteorology predicted potentially heavy rainfall the 1-5-19 to 3-5-19. By the Afternoon of 1-5-19 15 mm had fallen at the Snob 14 rain gauge, by the morning of 2-5-19 45mm had fallen and harvesting did not commence as it was too wet. With heavy rain forecast the afternoon and evening of the 2-5-19 the effectiveness of the silt traps and water quality was inspected at various locations in the Snobs Creek Catchment. These locations where visited again the morning of 3-5-19, no harvesting occurred at Snobs 14 due to wet ground, where a 3 day total of approximately 60mm was found to have fallen at the Snobs 14 coupe.

Snobs Creek Inspection 2-5-19

Snobs Creek area visited in the afternoon, light rain falling and road gutters flowing water 45mm of rain had fallen by this stage. Snobs Creeks level had increased. Water quality was lowest at the Goulburn Valley Highway and steadily improved to the highest point in the catchment inspected at the Number 5 Bridge on the Number 5 Track.



The small stream adjacent to Snobs 14 harvesting coupe was also inspected, In the upper catchment above Conn Gap Bridge and directly below the coupe on Snobs Creek Road. This creek was referred to at Conn Gap Creek in the photos but was later identified on maps as Mill Creek. Water quality only decreased slightly from the upper catchment to below the harvesting Coupe.



At approximately 5pm a large band of thunderstorms impacted the Snobs Creek Valley this included a brief period of high intensity rainfall where approximately 5 mm of rain fell in 5 minutes, this caused significant runoff from the road network. Due to the close proximity of Snobs Creek Rd to Snobs Creek itself, a large amounts of sediment laden water was seen running directly off the road into minor streams and drainage lines which run directly into Snobs Creek.

Snobs Creek Inspection 3-5-19

Due to the poor quality of the water found in the Snobs Creek catchment the previous day and the high intensity rainfall that fell after 5pm a second visit occurred in the morning of the 3-5-19. It had stopped raining by this stage and the rain gauge at Snobs 14 showed that another 16mm had fallen, totalling 60mm since the start of the rain event. The road gutters had stopped flowing and were mostly dry. The level of Snobs Creek had dropped and water quality had significantly improved from the day before when road gutter were flowing. Water quality had no visible decline in quality from the upper catchment to the lower catchment.



The heavy rainfall the night before had caused significant runoff from the landing, this water is filtered by the sediment traps and is directed into a road culvert directly below the Snobs 14 landing. Below the road was inspected to determine if any of the water from the landing had flowed directly into Snobs Creek. The area below the road is infested with blackberries and the outlet of the culvert couldn't be found. The drainage line was followed until running water was found, this was then followed until it entered Snobs Creek itself. No evidence of sediment from the Snobs 13 Snobs 14 harvesting coupe was found below Snobs Creek Rd. No evidence of sediment laden water from the coupe entering Snobs Creek or Mill Creek. See Video evidence attached to Email.



Conclusion and Recommendations

From the inspection conducted on the 2-5-19 and 3-5-19 the poor water quality in Snobs Creek appears to from sediment entering the creek from the general road network, rather than from a single source. There was no evidence of sediment entering Snobs Creek from the harvesting operations at the Coupes Snobs 13 and Snobs 14.

Recommend that further inspections of water quality been done in the Snobs Creek Catchment when high rainfall events are forecast. Continue to inspect the sediment traps on Snobs 13 and Snobs 14 coupes, dig out sediment traps when full, monitor landing for any emerging issues. Continue to report to Delwp when road network drainage structures require maintenance. Continue to monitor weather and road conditions for the suitability of harvest and haulage operations