

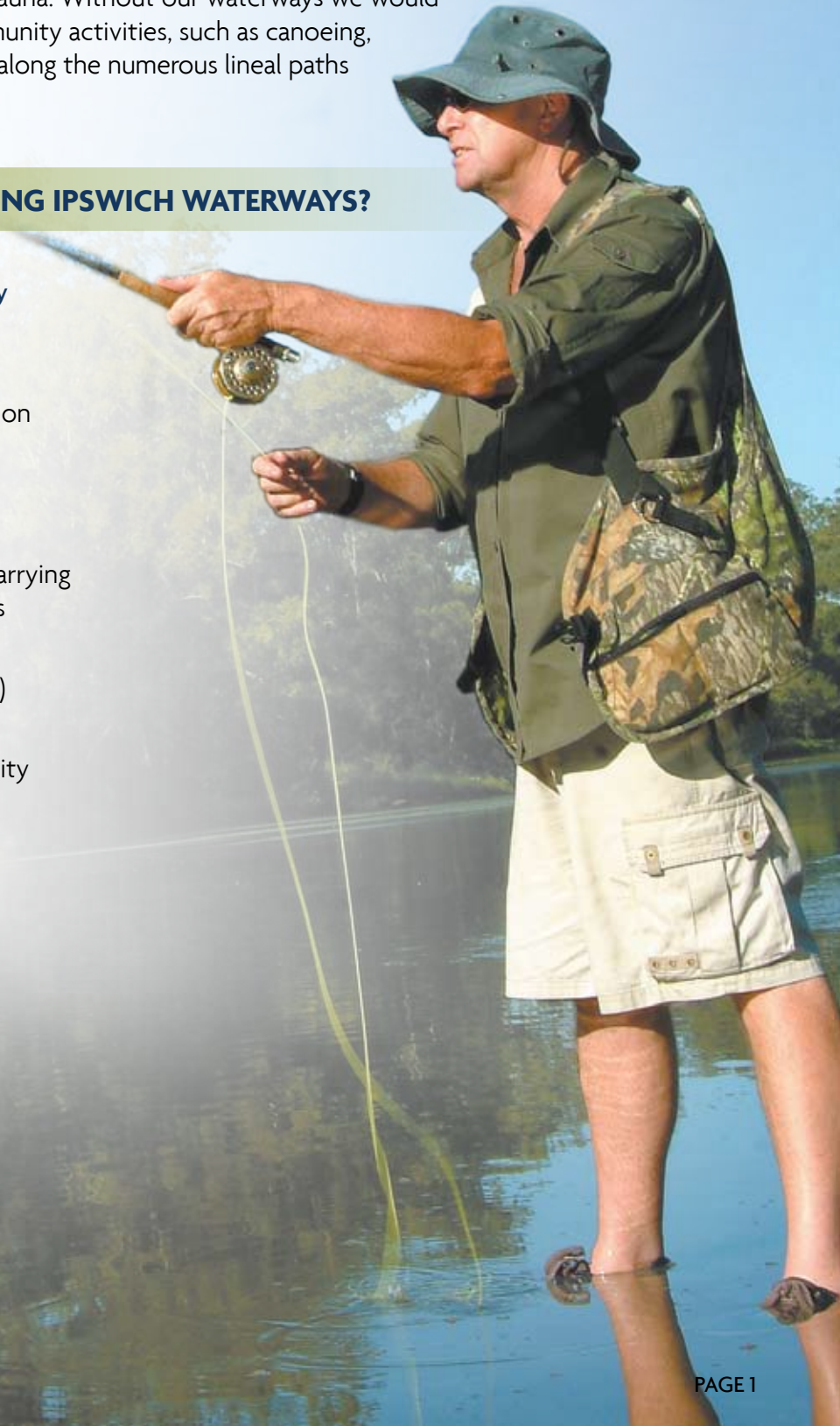
Threats and Challenges Facing Our **Waterways**

Ipswich waterways play a very important role in our community. They provide essential water for agricultural production, human consumption, industry and energy production (Swanbank Power Station), and essential habitat for native flora and fauna. Without our waterways we would lose many recreational, tourism and community activities, such as canoeing, fishing, water skiing, and walking or riding along the numerous lineal paths that run along our watercourses.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING IPSWICH WATERWAYS?

Waterways in Ipswich are faced with many challenges including:

- land clearing
- loss of riparian (creek side) vegetation
- erosion
- sedimentation
- loss of permanent waterholes
- runoff from land based activities carrying nutrients, pollutants and sediments
- weed infestations
- overuse of water (irrigation / dams)
- urban development
- climate change and climate variability



THE NEED FOR MANAGEMENT

Catchment management is an approach to planning and managing our local waterways and environment.

It involves everyone from residents, industry, schools, government and Council contributing and working together to improve our environment - making it a better place to live, work and play.

When working with a resource as extensive as our waterways, proper management of resources, coordination of stakeholders and clearly defined roles and responsibilities is essential. This ensures that everyone's needs are taken into account and a cooperative effort between everyone within the catchment is undertaken to achieve these goals.

Solutions

There are many solutions available and choosing the right one will depend on resources available, the challenges at hand and the desired outcomes. Some general solutions include:

- Replanting native vegetation to encourage the return of native animal species, as well as controlling runoff, reducing erosion and improving water quality.
- Controlling weeds and removing feral animals.
- Composting garden waste, disposing of waste correctly, and preventing oils, fats, solvents and other pollutants from entering stormwater drains.
- Government bodies working closely with landholders, and community groups to undertake effective catchment management activities.