

Living in a Healthy Catchment

WHICH CATCHMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LIVE IN?

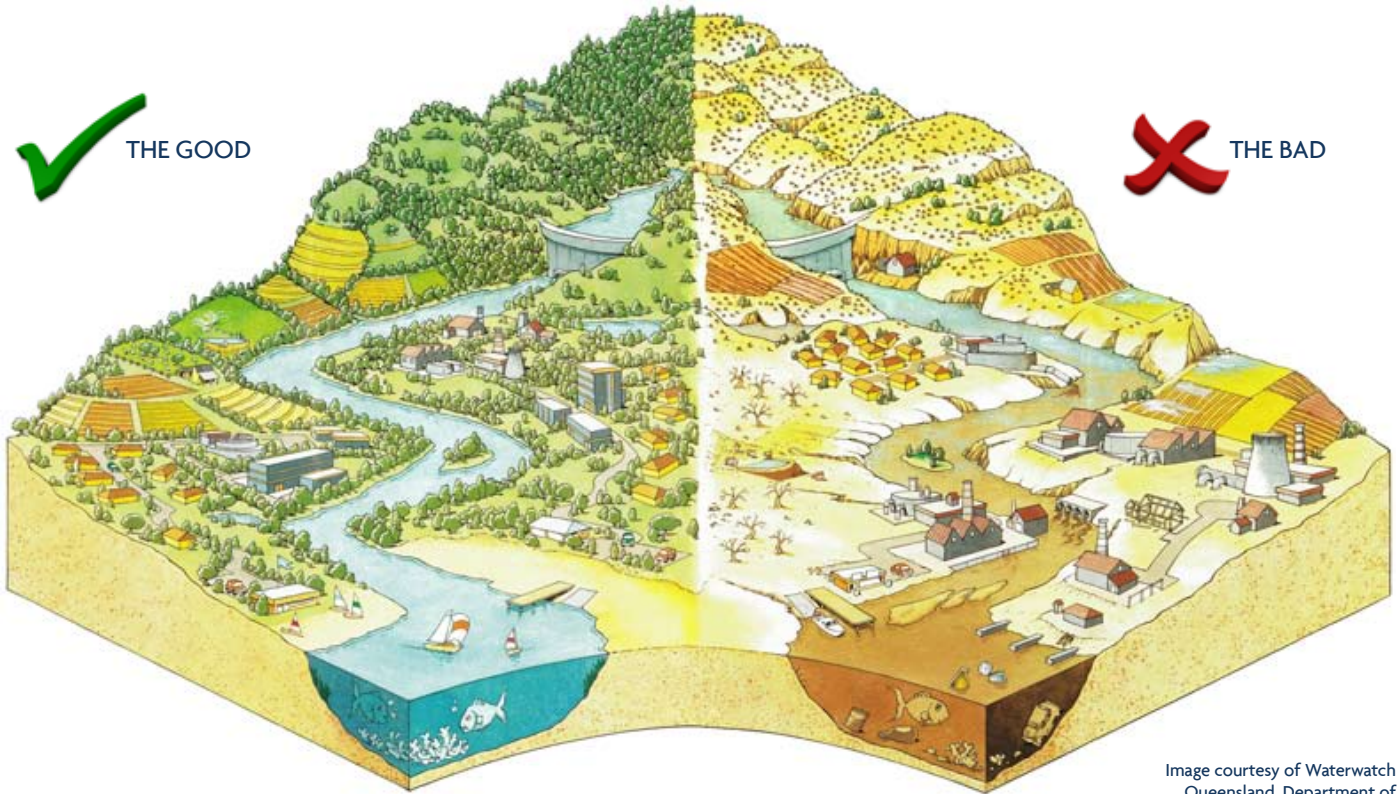


Image courtesy of Waterwatch Queensland, Department of Environment and Resource Management

THE GOOD	THE BAD
<p>Native plants growing along waterways hold the soil in place, helping to prevent stream bank erosion. They also provide essential shade keeping water temperature low limiting evaporation and preventing weed infestations.</p>	<p>The removal of native vegetation (trees, shrubs and ground covers) exposes the bare ground to the impacts of wind and rain. When there is nothing covering the ground and keeping the soil in place, it will erode away, washing soil into creeks and rivers making our waterways muddy.</p>
<p>Native animals need native trees and plants along waterways. The trees provide essential food and habitat, especially during times of drought or bush fires when native animals need a safe refuge to find food and water.</p>	<p>Household items such as tyres, mattresses and chairs find their way to waterways or dry gullies when not disposed of properly. Toxic chemicals from these items leach into the water, making it unsafe for people and aquatic animals.</p>
<p>Putting your rubbish in the bin means it won't end up in our waterways, keeping them clean for everyone to enjoy.</p>	<p>Excess use of fertilisers and pesticides in the garden can run off into stormwater drains and then into the waterways.</p>
<p>Dog droppings that end up in our waterways can introduce bacteria and nutrients. You can help prevent this by picking up your dogs droppings from lawns and parks and putting them in the bin.</p>	<p>Cleaning painting equipment and brushes near stormwater drains washes paint into the gutter which ends up in the waterway, harming native plants and animals.</p>
<p>Wash cars on the lawn instead of the driveway or street. This way, all the suds, oil and dirt coming off the car are filtered through the grass, keeping them out of stormwater drains which empty into our waterways.</p>	<p>Garden waste, lawn clippings and tree pruning's introduce weeds into our waterway corridors. Introduced weeds out-compete native flora and changes the diversity of plants available for native animals to feed or find shelter.</p>