

<b>Zone 10</b> <u>Hewitts Creek from confluence of piped Woodlands Creek to section of 'straightened' creek line (including gabion section) south of Corbett Avenue</u>		
<b>Soil</b>	Some original soil profile with signs of increased sedimentation and nitrification within riparian zones Extensive disturbance from re-routing of stream and gabion works near confluence of piped Woodlands Creek Disturbance along altered creek line, although strong evidence of resilience	
<b>Vegetation Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remnant <i>Banksia integrifolia</i> \ <i>Allocasurina distyla</i> estuarine community</li> <li>• Remnant littoral rainforest community flagged with the noting of species such as <i>Ficus coronata</i> (Sandpaper Fig) and <i>Livistona australis</i> (Cabbage Tree Palm).</li> <li>• Woody and herbaceous weeds</li> <li>• Significant occurrences of characteristic species of the SCESFC</li> </ul>	
<b>Weed Density</b>	<b>Medium - High</b>	
<b>Habitat Value</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thick pockets of weed infestation provide significant habitat for small birds and mammals.</li> <li>• High resilience is indicated by the appearance of native species in sections of the creek-line that are closely following the original water course of Hewitts Creek.</li> </ul>
<b>Major Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The diversion of water flow from Woodlands Creek into Hewitts Creek in the western end of this zone has contributed to the high-level weed infestation through disturbance, increased nitrification and sedimentation. However, it is important to note that this diversion follows the original path of Hewitts Creek as seen in the 1938 aerial photograph.</li> <li>• It is considered that the velocity of periodic flood waters through this section of the creek would have been increased by gabion channelling constructed to divert the flow of Woodlands Creek into Hewitts Creek, and the straightening of Hewitts Creek south of Seabreeze Place. This would incrementally contribute to the extensive erosion and undercutting of banks that is seen in this zone.</li> <li>• Track networking and invasive 'tunnelling' is a significant management issue within this zone.</li> </ul>	
<b>Contribution to Conservation Value of Sandon Point</b>	<b>SIGNIFICANT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the removal of gabion channelling and the reinstatement of the original watercourse of Hewitts Creek and in turn Woodlands Creek, flow regimes, floodplain management and vegetation profiles of Sandon Point would approach natural regimes. In turn, the conservation of local biodiversity and the habitat potential of the greater Sandon Point site would be protected and enhanced as significant green corridor would be consolidated.</li> <li>• Despite the high weed invasion in this zone, native species diversity is abundant and resilience within this zone is therefore considered to be good.</li> <li>• <i>Hibiscus diversifolius</i> (Swamp Hibiscus) occurring in this Zone is cited as regionally rare in the Illawarra</li> </ul>

**Plate 34 & 35:** Looking west from the gabion diversion of Woodlands Creek into the protective fencing and Casuarina's of remnant Hewitts Creek swamp wetland in Zone 9. Note the high density weed at the foreground in the gabion constructed channel.



**Plate 36:** Looking south-west from northern bank of gabioned section Hewitts Creek in Zone 10. Casuarina grove in centre background defines the edge of the remnant swamp wetland of Zone 9. Note weed domination in constructed channel.



**Plate 37:** Looking south through constructed gabion diversion channel between Woodlands and Hewitts Creeks. Casuarinas in Zone 9 at background.



**Plate 38:** Looking south across gabion channelling at Hewitts Creek to 'Hannah's Hill'. Vegetation at left background represents the original creek line of Hewitts Creek before downstream straightening.





**Plates 39 – 42:** Views of scoured and eroded section of Hewitts Creek through Zone 8 where creekline 'straightened' downstream of gabion channelling.

