Letter of advice of watercourse determination

Watercourse determination for the feature traversing Lots 19, 20 and 21 on RP153802 – 2 Karingal Drive Pimpama

The Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water has investigated the feature referred to above and has determined it to not be a watercourse for the purpose of the *Water Act 2000*. The attached plan shows the feature for which the determination has been carried out.

The determination includes the following parcels of land:

- Lot 19, 20 and 21 on RP153802

The following provides a summary of the reasons for the determination –

Evidence on which the determination was based

In making the determination, I had regard to the following material:

- Email enquiry from Brian Johnston dated 23 March 2022.
- Chapter 1 Part 2 section 5 of the *Water Act 2000.*
- Part 1 Division 2 and Schedule 1 of the *Water Regulation 2016.*
- Aerial imagery obtained for the Qld Globe and provided by Brian Johnston.
- Information collected during site inspection by departmental officers Nicci Window and Amy Brown, carried out on 20 April 2022.

Finding on material questions of Fact

I made the following findings of fact:

- The feature ***does not*** exhibit the characteristics typical of a watercourse defined under the *Water Act 2000* and *Water Regulation 2016,* including:
    - defined bed and banks that include the presence of fluvial bed material such as silts, sand, or/and gravel;
    - stable channel profile that includes pools and riffle sequences;
    - distinct population of functioning riparian vegetation; and
    - evidence of sustained flow events that have created a watercourse morphology across the subject properties and downstream.

- The feature ***does*** exhibit the characteristics typical of a drainage feature defined under the *Water Act 2000* and *Water Regulation 2016* including:
    - evidence the feature operates to concentrate and confine overland flow water after rainfall events, due to the ill-defined bed and banks and the lack of fluvial material;
    - the channel profile is unstable with no evidence of depositional feature, such as bars, benches, and instream islands.
    - Evidence would indicate that there is not enough of a continuing flow to create a riverine environment.
    - there are no morphological characteristics indicative to a watercourse, which can be attributed to the short duration of flow events after rainfall.

Reason for the decision
Having regard to the material and findings referred to above, I have decided to determine the feature as drainage for the reasons below.

The upper reaches of the feature prior to crossing the railway have no drainage system and the contours are flat. The feature is a 1st order stream with no demonstrated level of development indicative to the riverine environment. The feature displays characteristics attributed to drainage, such as an unstable channel profile, a lack of depositional features and there is no evidence of an extended population of riparian vegetation.

I made the decision to determine the feature not to be a watercourse as defined by the *Water Act 2000* for the following reason:

- The decision to determine the feature known as an Unnamed Tributary of Pimpama River as a drainage feature is consistent with the definition provided in the *Water Act 2000.*

Nicci Window
Senior Water Officer

