



ALLEGED ILLEGAL CLEARING 1 BOULTER ROAD

In early April 2014 members of Rapid Creek Landcare Group were shocked to see that the majority of 1 Boulter Road (Section 4106) had been completely cleared of native vegetation.

The block is in the headwaters of the Rapid Creek catchment. It was covered with native vegetation ranging from a special paperbark wetland on the western end, through fringing transitional communities, to a mature eucalypt woodland on the eastern end. All that is left is the wetland and some of the transitional vegetation on the western end. The rest is bare dirt. Well over 4 hectares of the block's 7.4 hectares have been cleared.

1 Boulter Road is zoned Community Purposes. Under this zoning a permit from the Development Consent Authority is required to clear the vegetation.

This clearing was carried out without a permit. Machinery was still on site when the clearing was noticed and it appeared more vegetation was to be cleared. The Landcare Group notified the Department of Lands Planning and the Environment and they have ordered the clearing to stop.

Under the *Planning Act* the Minister for Lands Planning and the Environment or the Development Consent Authority can prosecute the owner and anyone else involved in the clearing. The maximum fine is \$144,000 and remediation can be ordered.

The Rapid Creek Landcare Group calls on Minister Chandler to immediately use his powers under the *Planning Act* to prosecute the owners, and all of their contractors, to the full extent of the law, and to have the area fully rehabilitated.

Rapid Creek Landcare Group Inc.
info@rapidcreek.org.au - 0401 119 711 - www.rapidcreek.org.au

7 April 2014