

Councils combine to improve water quality

Crows Nest Shire Council and Toowoomba City Council have been working together to develop a water quality management strategy for Toowoomba's water supply catchments.

It is proposed that the strategy will include an assessment of the riparian vegetation in the subcatchments to the three dams — Cooby, Perseverance, and Cressbrook — in the Crows Nest district.

"The Crows Nest Shire water management strategy will have a strong emphasis on achieving co-operative win-win outcomes with landholders: a win for water quality and waterway health, and a win for the land use and management needs of landholders," Crows Nest Shire's natural resource management officer Mr Bruce Boyes said.

Both councils will participate in Water Week which starts on October 20.

A national event, it will highlight the ongoing work and achievements of governments, community, industry and individuals towards having cleaner and healthier waterways.

Waterways include the stream or water body and the



WATER-TIGHT: Crows Nest Shire land resources officer David Manning (left), Neil MacLeod, of CSIRO Indooroopilly, Crows Nest Land for Wildlife officer Rick Galbraith and Toowoomba City Council environmental planning project officer Alison Curtis discuss a joint water management strategy and view aerial photographs used to identify areas where the conc. area and connectivity of riparian vegetation can be closely studied.

Picture: JENNY GERSEKOWSKI

riparian area adjacent or beside the waterway.

This includes vegetation,

which stabilises the banks,

provides habitat for fauna, and filters the inflowing water-car-

rying sediments and nutrients from the upper catchment

into the waterway.