

Noelene Plummer

From the Bangalow Land and River Care Group

For the past 10 years, the **Bangalow Land and Rivercare Group** has been working with local farmers and the community to create a **riparian buffer zone** through the town, planting locally sourced natives to improve the water quality and ecological health of Byron Creek.

Negative impacts of the proposed Southern Bangalow Bypass:

- We are concerned about the effects on the quality of water in the Byron Creek catchment if a Southern Bypass were to be built, because of the **dangers of run-off** from the hard road surface.
- Once run-off reaches Wilsons River and onto the Rocky Creek Dam, water from Byron Creek forms part of the **local drinking water catchment**. If it becomes polluted from road run-off, then that goes into our drinking water.
- With a heavy rain event, and we have many each year, a concentration of built-up hydrocarbons, heavy metals and suspended solids, **negatively affects water quality**.
- A Southern Bypass would result in **changes to the hydrology**. Rainwater would funnel into Byron Creek at a rate far faster than it would otherwise naturally occur. This speeded-up flow could lead to more frequent flooding events in and close to the town.
- The proposed Bypass is located in close proximity to the isolated rainforest remnant known as **Hermanns Remnant**. Less than 1% of our precious original subtropical rainforest is left in isolated remnants, once covering 75,000 hectares of this area at the time of European settlement. It's vital to maintain and improve the biodiversity of what we have carefully restored.
- **Alligator weed** has been found and is currently being treated along Byron Creek. It is more dangerous than cane toads, and the NSW Government fears it could destroy much of our farming land and choke our waterways, if not properly removed. If the outbreaks already detected were to be spread by heavy road-making machinery, which is highly likely, it has devastating potential to local agriculture and our water supply.