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City Group sewer works a bombsite two years on

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Rob Mellett

DEVELOPER Springfield City Group has left bushland used by nature lovers scarred more than two years after sewer upgrade works were completed.

SCG carried out the works for Urban Utilities along Opossum and Woogaroo creeks around Brookwater and Springfield.

Angle iron, plastic netting and holes four metres deep pepper areas around the works.

Many hundreds of trees were felled for the work and widespread soil erosion and rubble continue to degrade the former beauty spot.

A spokeswoman for Urban Utilities said: "We would like to see site restoration works completed as quickly as possible.

"SCG carried out the works and is responsible for ensuring that all relevant codes, legislation, and other approval conditions are met.

"The developer has been given the opportunity to provide a plan to address the concerns about the current site before the matter is progressed further.

"Urban Utilities is working with Ipswich City Council to encourage SCG to resolve the issue."

Ipswich Mayor Teresa Harding said the council held regular talks with SCG and Urban Utilities about rectifying the issues.

"Continuing rains have exacerbated the erosion problem across the site ... council is working to find an acceptable outcome for the bushland and the community," Cr Harding said.

Meanwhile, the creeks are littered with thousands of plastic water bottles and recent rains have smashed flat aluminium barriers on creek crossings.

"We are still assessing the damage to these assets, specifically creek crossings and bridges, before scheduling or costing repairs," Cr Harding said.

"Council wants its parklands to be safe for the community and will do everything possible to manage the risk posed by the damage in this location.

"Major waterways are Crown Land and managed by the Queensland Government. "Any works in, on or around them require state approval."

Division 2 Councillor Nicole Jonic said pollutant traps such as grates on drainage leading to waterways had been installed by the council and developers.

"These are cleaned out as part of scheduled maintenance or in preparation for large forecast rain/flood events," Cr Jonic said.

She said the contractors regularly removed litter and debris from larger rivers such as the Bremer and Brisbane.

"Two tonnes of rubbish was removed from these rivers between September 2023 and April 2024," she said.

Springfield City Group did not respond to *Ipswich Tribune* questions.