

WTL- BC 1: Riparian Restoration - Improving Connectivity Along Peterson and Mazlin Creeks and the Barron River

Conduct riparian restoration and revegetation on smaller creeks [Peterson and Mazlin] and the Barron River to improve riparian habitat connectivity within the upper Barron Catchment.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓				✓
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓	✓		✓
Outcome	<p>Building on existing riparian restoration work and establishing new revegetation sites along smaller creeks [Peterson and Mazlin] and the Barron River in the upper Barron Catchment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide the opportunity to achieve good riparian habitat along smaller creeks within the catchment. ▪ Restore habitat connectivity by connecting isolated small remnants to larger established forest areas and higher altitudes. ▪ Expand the extent of critically endangered Mabi Forest. ▪ Provide good opportunities to engage positively with local communities and landholders. ▪ Provide the opportunity to engage with the Traditional Owners of the area in culturally sensitive areas – mainly Mazlin Creek. 				
Justification	<p>There are sections within the upper Barron Catchment that remain in a reasonable condition, with existing aquatic connections and good riparian habitat. Other areas require restoration to enhance the condition and extent of riparian vegetation and to improve connections between the good sections, strengthening the biodiversity outcomes. Restoring and revegetating these creek systems will also help increase the extent of the critically endangered Mabi Forest, as well as improve connectivity between larger remnants of protected Mabi Forest. There are already community groups actively managing restoration projects in the upper Barron Catchment; maintaining the existing momentum and partnerships already developed will provide excellent opportunities to maintain and expand project activities, resulting in enhanced environmental and social outcomes.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate a range of issues, including erosion, sedimentation and biodiversity considerations, to help prioritise sites requiring restoration. 2. Engage and consult with the community to develop work programs and identify priority locations. 3. Investigate planning processes which support opportunities to widen the riparian vegetation in some areas, to improve protection and buffering of the creek. 4. Continue with rehabilitation and revegetation in priority riparian areas, linking large remnant forest e.g. Curtain Fig NP to Wongabel SF, and Mazlin Creek to Tinaroo Dam. 5. Find funding to carry out these activities. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Existing revegetation has occurred in these areas. ✓ Strong local community groups with good capacity and relationships with landholders. ✓ Good knowledge of landholders who are willing to participate. ✓ Most sections of the creeks and river are already fenced. ✓ Revegetation of the riparian area will control and smother out most weeds which have established in the fenced off area. ✗ Curtain Fig Np to Wongabel is a long corridor, therefore expensive. ✗ Not all landholders will participate along both corridors [Curtain Fig to Wongabel and Mazlin Creek]. ✗ Limited funding to proceed. 				