

WTL - BC 3: BMP Grazing to Improve Riparian Condition and Water Quality in the Upper Barron Catchment

Conduct a BMP program for grazing properties in the Upper Barron Catchment to reduce sediment run off and improve water quality.

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>Conducting a program to encourage Best Management Practices on grazing farms within this catchment will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved management and health of riparian areas. ▪ Improved management of pasture lands and grazing enterprises. ▪ Improved aquatic habitat for a range of species. ▪ Reductions in sediment and nutrient run-off with associated improvements in water quality downstream in the Barron River and the Great Barrier Reef. ▪ Opportunities to engage with local communities and increase involvement in the project.
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Justification	<p>Graziers on the Tablelands have small acreage, with a diversity of practices. Some graziers are still watering stock in stream, resulting in erosion and impacting on water quality. Engaging these farmers in BMP, including a whole property farm plan which includes riparian fencing, off-stream watering points and improved grazing practices, would reduce the amount of nutrients, sediments and pesticides entering our waterways. Sediment runoff from grazing activities has the potential to impact on the health of the region's waterways. Significantly, a range of health problems on the Great Barrier Reef have been linked to land-based sediment and nutrient runoff. Soil conservation in this area, through best management grazing practices, is a priority due to the fast runoff, erodibility of soil and fine sediment. There are a range of effective techniques which could be used to stabilise these areas and reduce the impacts of erosion. Reducing sediment loss through practice change and fencing of waterways with off-stream watering points will make a significant difference.</p>
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Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage and contact landowners and establish relationships. 2. Work in partnership with DAF staff, already working in the community. 3. Hold workshops/field days on BMP philosophies and encourage the implementation of these practices. 4. Source funding to encourage farmers to implement changes in the Upper Catchment. 5. Implement BMPs.
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Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Some landholders are already engaged and keen to proceed with further work that could be display farms. ✓ Landholders have a good relationship with DAF, therefore good to partner with them. ✓ There are other catchments in the region with similar issues and solutions which we can learn from. ✓ There are opportunities for collaboration among landholders and establishment of farmer clusters to work on sediment issues. ✓ Available local knowledge for mitigation of erosion issues. ✗ Expensive as a range of techniques may be required, including engineering solutions or revegetation, which increases the financial cost. ✗ No plans developed in this area. ✗ Fenced riparian areas need to be managed to reduce weed invasion [either revegetate or crash grazing].
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