

## WTL–CUC 3: Hydrological Study for Cairns Central Swamp

Undertake a hydrological study of Cairns Central Swamp to investigate options for managing flow and salt/freshwater dynamics and restoring wetland habitat.

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 hydrological study for Cairns Central Swamp will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure appropriate on-ground works are conducted in the area, which provide both good drainage and environmental outcomes.</li> <li>▪ Encourage collaborative relationships with partners and the community.</li> <li>▪ Provide the basis for restoration of the wetland habitat and improvements in water quality.</li> <li>▪ Identify opportunities for restoration of saltwater flows to assist with water quality, habitat restoration and weed control.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>Cairns Central Swamp plays an important role in drainage in the central Cairns suburbs. A hydrological study is needed to ensure works to improve ecological outcomes do not adversely affect drainage. The study will identify the most appropriate options to manage the complex salt/freshwater flow dynamics to assist with improving water quality, restoring habitat and controlling weeds.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Engagement with Cairns Regional Council and community.</li> <li>2) Develop hydrological study with recommendations for drainage including tidal floodgates, any treatment systems and opportunities for riparian and wetland restoration.</li> <li>3) Work on priority agreed actions.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strong local community landcare group with good capacity and relationships with landholders.</li> <li>✓ Strong community recognition of values of Cairns Central Swamp.</li> <li>✗ High costs and complex logistics of large-scale project in urban environment.</li> </ul>				