

WTL-CUC 2: Riparian Corridor Restoration Along Freshwater Creek

Conduct riparian restoration and revegetation along Freshwater Creek to create a continuous riparian corridor from Crystal Cascades to the Barron River.

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 Freshwater Creek will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore habitat connectivity, with the opportunity to achieve a continuous riparian corridor (>50m wide) from Crystal Cascades to the Barron River. ▪ Provide good opportunities to engage positively with local communities and landholders. 				
Justification	<p>The coastal sections of Freshwater Creek remain in a reasonable condition, with existing aquatic connections and good riparian habitat along most of the creek. The creek flows through both urban and agricultural landscapes, however there is likely to be a transition towards more urban development. Subsequent planning processes could support opportunities to widen the riparian vegetation in some areas, to improve protection and buffering of the creek. Maintaining the existing momentum and partnerships already developed will provide the best opportunity to maintain and expand project activities, resulting in enhanced environmental and social outcomes.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue with rehabilitation and revegetation in riparian areas, linking mountains to Barron via Freshwater Creek. 2) Community engagement, education and extension work to reduce recreation impacts along Freshwater Creek. 3) Investigate sediment issues. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong local community landcare group with good capacity and relationships with landholders. ✓ Existing revegetation already occurring in this area. ✓ Cairns Regional Council has allocated a wide corridor for riparian revegetation as part of master planned sports facilities at Redlynch. ✓ Existing good aquatic connections and good riparian habitat through most of this area. ✓ Transition of land from cane to urban development may offer opportunities to allocate more land to establish a wider riparian corridor along Freshwater Creek. ✗ Urban development could threaten riparian restoration work and existing connections (but also potential to build on existing work to complete and widen connections). 				