

WTL-CUC 4: Riparian Replanting of Cairns Urban Creeks

Build on extensive work already undertaken by local landcare groups and Cairns Regional Council to restore riparian vegetation along urban creeks throughout Cairns.

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>Improving the condition and extent of riparian vegetation along Cairns urban creeks will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve fish and riparian habitat, connectivity, bank stability and water quality in urban Cairns waterways. ▪ Improve biosecurity outcomes through control of weeds and improved access for yellow crazy ant control activities. ▪ Provide opportunities to engage with local communities and increase involvement in the project. 				
Justification	<p>There are effective and active community groups already conducting projects in the area. These groups have strong capacity to deliver on this project and have already established good relationships with other stakeholders and landholders. The project will deliver multiple outcomes, including environmental, social and recreational benefits. Importantly, ongoing biosecurity efforts to control yellow crazy ants in the area will also benefit, through improving access to sites for control activities by the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and partners.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify sites and explore opportunities to undertake weed control and replanting in degraded areas (eg. Chinaman, Skeleton, Blackfellows and Wright Creeks (Mackinnon and Stony sub-catchments)). 2) Work with Council, landcare groups and landholders to undertake riparian rehabilitation along creeks, as opportunities become available. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong local community landcare groups with good capacity. ✓ Potential of urban landcare projects to attract numbers of volunteers. ✗ Some areas within the urban landscape are heavily modified and fragmented and may require significant and expensive restoration work to achieve good outcomes. 				