

WTL-DT 1: Reconnect Creek Line Riparian Vegetation: Niau, Little Niau and Martin

Encourage and support the rehabilitation of creek line riparian native vegetation to improve the condition and resilience of waterways in these sub-catchments.

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>Facilitating increased native riparian vegetation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve biodiversity along creek lines. ▪ Improve resilience of waterways to withstand flooding events. ▪ Provide opportunities to engage with local communities and increase involvement in the project. ▪ Reduce sediment entering the freshwater system. 				
Justification	<p>The native riparian vegetation of these sub catchments is sparse and not providing the stream bank protection it could if it was widened and improved. Increasing the riparian vegetation will result in a protective barrier between waterways and farming land, it will improve biodiversity and connectivity and increase resilience of country to withstand high water flow events. Along with this, improved native riparian creek lines provide shaded and cooled waterways which allows native fish species to travel through that area to breed and refugia for hiding from predation.</p> <p>Farmers benefit from a reduction in rat numbers as an increase in riparian vegetation will lead to a reduction in weed species which the rats utilise for food and shelter. Also, streambanks become more resilient, reducing erosion and loss of topsoil in high rainfall events.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify sites and explore opportunities to undertake riparian revegetation projects. 2) Plan works and source locally grown plants. 3) Engage community in on ground works in the shape of planting days and ongoing maintenance of sites. 4) Work with Douglas Shire Council, QPWS, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and other community groups to identify gaps in funding and capacity. 5) Conduct ongoing mentoring and capacity building of farmers to encourage implementation of best management practices to protect waterways into the future. 6) Monitor and evaluate rehabilitated sites to ensure milestones are being met. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong Council support with good capacity. ✓ Potential of revegetation projects to attract numbers of volunteers. ✗ Resistance to change by landowners/loss of agricultural land given up for rehabilitation of riparian. ✗ Large wet seasons = high potential for young trees being washed away before establishment. 				