

## WTL-DT 2: Control of Pond Apple in Lower Daintree and Cow Bay

Undertake Pond Apple control in Cape Kimberley and Cow Bay areas to protect the ecosystems in these environmentally significant areas.

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>Control of Pond Apple will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve biodiversity along creek lines and coastal wetlands.</li> <li>▪ Improve wetland and in-creek biodiversity (fish, crustacean).</li> <li>▪ Reduce threats to native mangrove and melaleuca communities.</li> <li>▪ Provide opportunities to engage with local communities and increase involvement in the project.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>Pond apple, <i>Annona glabra</i>, is a major environmental weed of the Wet Tropics bioregion of Far North Queensland and a Weed of National Significance. Pond apple is highly invasive with the potential to have disastrous impacts on Australia's native vegetation and economy as it gradually replaces everything else in the canopy layer, totally transforming native lowland rainforest, wetland and mangrove vegetation, as it is able to tolerate saline conditions. It is the weed of greatest concern in the Wet Tropics Bioregion and is potentially one of Australia's most environmentally damaging weeds. It invades remote nationally significant sites, including endangered ecosystems in Wet Tropics World Heritage properties, with the added threat that, unlike many weeds, pond apple can invade and destroy undisturbed ecosystems.</p> <p>Several established pond apple clusters are present in the Daintree catchment, the most accessible and treatable being on the northern bank of the Daintree River in the coastal estuarine area. This is known as the Cape Kimberley outbreak and is currently treated on an ad hoc basis by the Douglas Shire Council when funding is available. The second site is at Cow Bay (lower Bailey Creek) in a wetland close to the coast. These areas are accessible and treatment can have a large impact on the weeds resulting in a good outcome if the project is co-ordinated, strategic and collaborative and follow up works are well supported.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify sites and plan scope of works.</li> <li>2) Prioritise areas that are highest risk of spreading weed into sensitive areas and are easiest to access.</li> <li>3) Undertake a community awareness campaign to increase awareness and reduce risk of public inadvertently spreading the weed.</li> <li>4) Work with Douglas Shire Council, QPWS, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and other community groups to identify gaps in funding and capacity.</li> <li>5) Engage Indigenous organisations, where possible, to undertake the works.</li> <li>6) Monitor and evaluate sites which are treated, and conduct re-treatment where required to ensure milestones are being met.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strong Council support with good capacity, including access to expertise and equipment to treat.</li> <li>✓ Good Traditional Owner support and benefit.</li> <li>✓ Opportunity to increase public awareness and stewardship.</li> <li>✗ Little opportunity for on ground community engagement as treatment difficult and dangerous.</li> <li>✗ Already well established stands of Pond Apple may require multi-year project funding and ongoing treatment to eradicate.</li> <li>✗ Ongoing funding will be required to secure contracted services.</li> </ul>				