

WTL-DT 3: Best Management Practice (BMP) grazing in the Stewart Catchment

Reduce sediment runoff and increase biodiversity in the Stewart Catchment, through a best management program.

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>Encouraging BMP in the Stewart catchment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve biodiversity of freshwater ecosystem and streambanks. ▪ Improve resilience of grazier's streambanks to withstand rainfall events. ▪ Provide opportunities to engage with local communities and increase involvement in the project. ▪ Reduce sediment run off and improve water quality in Daintree River. 				
Justification	<p>The predominant agricultural pursuit in the Stewart catchment is grazing, with the riparian vegetation historically very impacted by clearing. The creeks are exposed to high temperatures impacting on in stream biodiversity with zero connectivity between highland largely intact rainforest communities and the lower mangroves of the Daintree delta. Improving BMP in this catchment, including repairing the riparian corridors, fencing cattle from fragile stream banks and increasing resilience of creeks to high rainfall events will have a large impact on the water quality outcomes of the Daintree River as a whole. Improving practice will also increase the resilience of graziers to natural disasters and extreme weather events.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Connect with landowners and establish relationships. 2) Communicate BMP philosophies and encourage the implementation of these practices. 3) Work with peak industry grazing bodies, Douglas Shire Council, QPWS, Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation and other community groups to identify opportunities for these groups to work together for mutually beneficial outcomes. 4) Source funding to encourage farmers to implement changes in the Stewart catchment. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Terrain has excellent 'in-house' expertise in the introduction and implementation of BMP in grazing via previous projects managed. ✓ Potential of revegetation projects to attract numbers of volunteers. ✗ Resistance of landowners who may see riparian plantings as "loss" of good grazing land. ✗ Freehold land may change hands and new owners not be as willing to participate in rehabilitation projects. 				