

WTL-DT 4: Road Sediment Management for Cooper and Tachalbadga Creeks

Investigate strategies to reduce the impact of sediments entering the Cooper and Tachalbadga creeks via road traffic.

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>Investigating the amount of sediment entering creeks via roads and implementing reduction strategies will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef basin. ▪ Reduce sediment loads. ▪ Provide opportunity for revegetation of strategic areas of creeks, increasing biodiversity outcomes whilst reducing sediment loads. ▪ Increase resilience of country to cope with heavy rainfall and flooding events. 				
Justification	<p>There can be significant localised impacts on water quality as a result of sediment from roads washing into waterways. Investigating and implementing a range of interventions to minimise this source of sediment in our waterways will contribute to improvements in local and downstream water quality. Working with Terrain's in house expertise, land owners and Traditional Owner groups to improve practices on country will lead to a suite of outcomes, including the reduction of sediment loads, increase of riparian verges along waterways, increase in biodiversity and freshwater connectivity. These outcomes will increase the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef basin at the Daintree and improve biodiversity and freshwater connectivity in these areas.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Undertake a desktop analysis of the areas that will benefit most from direct intervention in the form of increased riparian revegetation. 2) Identify key landowners in these areas (Traditional Owner, private or public lands). 3) Approach landowners and establish relationships. 4) Educate stakeholders in the benefits of reducing run off into creeks. 5) Source funding and other resources to assist in the motivation for improving protection of freshwater systems from sediment. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong capacity and expertise from within Terrain NRM. ✓ Potential to reduce a substantial sediment load entering the Great Barrier Reef. ✓ Abundance of previously tested methods for improving water quality and reducing run off. ✓ Potential of revegetation projects on riparian areas to improve biodiversity and freshwater connectivity. ✗ Resistance of landowners to change usually via denial of the root cause of the problem or lack of understanding of the impacts. ✗ Lack of resources to encourage change. 				