

WTL-RC 3: Investigation of Catchment Repair Options – Babinda Creek

Develop and implement a targeted repair strategy to improve the condition of Babinda Creek, which considers a range of factors, including enhancement of in-stream habitat, restoring riparian areas and engineering solutions. Consult and engage with local landholders to ensure strong community support and ownership of project implementation.

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>Conducting an investigation into the most appropriate repair options for Babinda Creek will provide many benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A better understanding of the issues and priority areas to focus on. ▪ An opportunity to identify and conduct targeted and strategic remediation projects. ▪ A focus for investment options which will provide the most significant return on financial inputs. 				
Justification	<p>Half of the runoff for the Russell Catchment flows through this management unit; improving water quality in this section will result in significant improvements to downstream waterways, including the GBR. There are opportunities to investigate and implement a wide range of repair options, ranging from practice change, instream habitat improvements, engineering and riparian restoration, providing many opportunities for collaboration and community involvement. This section of the river is the source of weed infestation further downstream. Any weed control work will provide significant downstream benefits.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop the terms of reference for preparing a Catchment Repair Plan, in collaboration with all stakeholders, including landholders, government, Traditional Owners, research organisations and community groups. Strong community support and involvement will be a critical component of project success. 2) Using a collaborative approach, identify priority remediation actions from the Catchment Repair Plan. Initial feedback has indicated possibilities for recreation of snags to enhance habitat value for fish, weed management, restoring riparian vegetation and sand removal and stabilisation. 3) Investigate collaborative funding options to proceed to implementation of priority actions. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There is agreement on the terms of reference for an investigation of catchment repair options. ✓ There are sections of the creek with good aquatic connectivity and a range of aquatic habitats, which provide a good foundation for further improvements to the instream environments. ✓ Regular water testing is already being carried out in the area. ✓ There are culturally significant areas (Babinda Boulders), providing opportunities for Traditional Owner involvement. ✗ Some sections of the creek are sandy, highly mobile and susceptible to flooding and bank breakouts; remediation options in these areas may be complex and expensive. ✗ The riparian vegetation is largely non-existent and the river is heavily weed infested. ✗ Heavy sand loads may prove difficult to manage and remove. 				