

WTL-HC 1: Rehabilitating Allingham Wetlands (Mandam, Fullers, Mungalla – Near Forrest Beach)

Rehabilitating the Allingham Wetlands to improve their condition and function will allow them to better filter nutrients, herbicides and sediment from the water, resulting in improved water quality flowing out to the GBR. These wetlands also provide habitat for the Mahogany Glider and Cassowary.

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>Rehabilitating Allingham Wetlands will achieve multiple outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved water quality in wetlands, in-shore lagoons and coastal and reef systems, through reduced sediment, pesticide and herbicide loads. ▪ Improved adaptability and resilience of our region’s waterways to impacts of climate change. ▪ Increased habitat and connectivity, benefiting a range of aquatic species, especially anadromous fish species and crocodiles. ▪ Enhanced social and community benefits through involvement in on-ground activities, resulting in strong community stewardship and ownership of projects. ▪ Improved fish passage to important fish breeding habitat. ▪ Increased community awareness, particularly for restoration projects in high profile locations. ▪ Increased recreational and tourism opportunities around waterways. ▪ Providing potential for Traditional Owner involvement and benefits. 				
Justification	<p>There is some community support for the rehabilitation of this wetland; we can capitalise on this support, by building on existing projects and transferring successful methodology to additional areas. A systematic approach to wetland restoration, based on agreed criteria and priorities, will provide extensive benefits to the health of our waterways. This wetland is important habitat for fish breeding and assists in alleviating flooding in the local area. Some areas of the Allingham Wetlands are culturally significant and may provide opportunities for Traditional Owner involvement.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engage with landholders to identify opportunities for improved grazing land management practices which will lead to improved wetland condition and function. 2) Identify opportunities for funding and implementation, including cash and other contributions and develop a delivery mechanism relevant to the area and issue which maximises landholder and community involvement and fosters long term stewardship. 3) Implement on ground actions and monitor environmental and capacity building outcomes. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There are many supportive stakeholders willing to contribute to restoration of these waterways. ✓ Fish and fish habitat are important to many people and can be used to engage landholders in the area. ✗ This is a large scale, long term project which may seem overwhelming. It will require a long term commitment and funding to ensure success – difficult for many community groups, given short term funding arrangements and volunteer succession. ✗ Wetland areas can be difficult to work in and often have poor access, steep, uneven terrain, risk of flooding and crocodiles. ✗ We need to be realistic – there is only so much that individuals can take on. 				