

## WTL-HC 2: Restoration of Cattle Creek Wetlands and Associated Tributaries (Trebonne, Cattle and Francis Creeks)

Restoring the Cattle creek wetlands and associated tributaries will reduce sediment and improve water quality flowing into the GBR, as well as provide aquatic connectivity to Cattle Creek Wetlands, which are listed as a Nationally Important Wetland (DIWA) and fish habitat area.

<b>This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes</b>	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓		✓		✓
<b>This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes</b>	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓	✓		✓
<b>Outcome</b>	<p>Restoring the Cattle Creek Wetlands and associated tributaries will achieve multiple outcomes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved water quality in freshwater river systems, in-shore lagoons and reef systems, through reduced sediment, pesticide and herbicide loads.</li> <li>▪ Improved adaptability and resilience of our region’s waterways to impacts of climate change.</li> <li>▪ Increased habitat and connectivity, benefiting a range of aquatic species, especially anadromous fish species.</li> <li>▪ Enhanced social and community benefits through involvement in on-ground activities, resulting in strong community stewardship and ownership of projects.</li> <li>▪ Reduced bank erosion and sediment loads in waterways and coastal systems.</li> <li>▪ Positive biosecurity outcomes, through long-term weed management and removal of pest habitat.</li> <li>▪ Increased community awareness, particularly for restoration projects in high profile locations.</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational and tourism opportunities around waterways.</li> <li>▪ Providing potential for Traditional Owner involvement and benefits.</li> </ul>				
<b>Justification</b>	<p>Community support and involvement in waterway restoration projects is high. The issues affecting Cattle Creek Wetlands lead to increased flooding of local properties and state infrastructure, which has caused local awareness and interest in the systems. We can capitalise on this awareness and support by building on existing projects and transferring successful methodology to additional areas. A systematic approach to waterway restoration, based on agreed criteria and priorities, will provide extensive benefits to the health of our waterways. The Cattle Creek Wetlands and associated tributaries are culturally and environmentally significant and may provide opportunities for Traditional Owner involvement.</p>				
<b>Key steps</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In collaboration with key stakeholders, leverage funding to undertake a fluvial geomorphological study for the Cattle, Francis and Trebonne Creeks to identify sediment point sources and develop solutions to address them.</li> <li>2) In collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including landholders, research organisations, industry, Traditional Owners and government, identify opportunities for funding, including cash and other contributions, to implement the priority actions identified in the fluvial geomorphological study.</li> <li>3) When the system sediment issue has stabilised, investigate opportunities for sediment extraction, revegetation and aquatic weed control.</li> </ol>				
<b>Feasibility considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There is already strong community capacity and support to plan and implement successful waterway restoration projects.</li> <li>✓ There are many supportive landholders and stakeholders willing to contribute to restoration of these waterways.</li> <li>✓ Previous studies and on-ground action have been conducted in this system.</li> <li>✗ This is a large scale, long term project which will require ongoing commitment and funding to ensure success – difficult for many community groups, given short-term funding arrangements and volunteer succession.</li> <li>✗ Riparian areas can be difficult to work in and often have poor access, steep, uneven terrain, risk of flooding and crocodiles.</li> <li>✗ Sediment extraction and riverbank stabilisation are very costly activities.</li> <li>✗ We need to be realistic – there is only so much that individuals can take on.</li> </ul>				