

## WTL-JC 2: Showcasing Landscape-Scale Wetland Restoration

Showcase the restoration and extension of wetland areas in rural and urban locations around Innisfail, through the establishment of high-profile demonstration sites and development of interpretive material.

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>Restoring wetland areas around Innisfail and showcasing the results will bring significant environmental and social outcomes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved quality of water entering the Johnstone River and GBR from the Innisfail urban catchment.</li> <li>▪ Increased community awareness and involvement in water management projects, resulting in strong community pride and stewardship.</li> <li>▪ Contributing to a cultural change regarding environmental and water quality issues.</li> <li>▪ Increasing the awareness and understanding of successful water management projects, leading to potential for further uptake and on-ground work.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>Establishing demonstration sites is an excellent way to showcase success stories and encourage uptake on a larger scale. The demonstration sites can be a powerful tool in showing how projects can be done and the types of results which can be achieved. This part of the catchment incorporates both rural and urban land uses and has been identified as a hot spot for DIN. The on-ground component of this project will deliver significant improvements to the water quality within the catchment, as well as the Great Barrier Reef.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify and collaborate with stakeholders from a range of relevant sectors, to ensure appropriate technical expertise and community input to guide the planning, development and implementation of projects.</li> <li>2) Develop action plans and implement on-ground projects to restore wetland function in identified locations eg. Warrina Lakes and Saltwater Creek.</li> <li>3) Develop and implement a communications plan supporting the establishment and promotion of demonstration sites.</li> <li>4) Implement a water quality monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of the wetland restoration work.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The high profile location provides an opportunity to establish the project as a demonstration site, promoting the methodology and outcomes of the project to a broad audience.</li> <li>✓ There are some urban remnant wetland systems existing, with strong community interest in their restoration.</li> <li>✓ The close proximity to a populated, urban area provides an opportunity to engage with a broader cross-section of the community and wider uptake of the project.</li> <li>✗ Implementation of the existing hydrology plan would require significant capital investment.</li> <li>✗ Wetland projects can be complex, requiring expertise and collaboration across a wide range of disciplines. In addition, this project would also require effective communication skills to establish successful demonstration sites.</li> <li>✗ Monitoring the impact on community awareness and understanding can be difficult to measure.</li> </ul>				