

WTL-MC 4: Systems Repair in the Aloomba Bends Vicinity

Conduct a whole-of-system approach to rehabilitation of the Mulgrave River at Aloomba Bends, including revegetation, treatment systems and lagoon construction.

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 a whole-of-system approach to rehabilitation in this section of the Mulgrave River will provide multiple benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved fish and riparian habitat, connectivity and bank stability in section of Mulgrave main channel and adjoining floodplain. ▪ Improved water quality in local freshwater streams and rivers, as well as the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. 				
Justification	<p>A whole systems rehabilitation approach provides the opportunity to achieve significant results across a range of issues in this location, including water quality and terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity. The main Mulgrave channel is quite mobile in this area, but there are good opportunities for reinstating riparian habitat and connectivity in some of the larger areas created within the Aloomba Bends. In addition, off-stream lagoons can be developed or enhanced to provide both water treatment services and fish habitat.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engage landholders. 2) Conduct farm BMP all the way through this unit. 3) Conduct strategic tree planting around the Aloomba Bends. 4) Investigate design and develop off-stream small lagoons for fish and other aquatic animals, rather than solely for WQ improvement. 5) Investigate potential for treatment systems on the western bank. 6) Revegetate along creeks between Mulgrave River and Malbon Thompson Range downstream of Aloomba bends to improve connectivity. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong local community landcare group with good capacity and relationships with landholders. ✓ River bends provide opportunity for wide band of habitat through this area. ✓ Extensive revegetation work already undertaken in this area by local Landcare group. ✓ Potential for lower lying cane areas to be revegetated and off stream lagoons to be developed without significantly affecting farm productivity. ✗ Riparian areas can be difficult to work in and often have poor access, steep, uneven terrain and risk of flooding. ✗ Instability and movement of the river channel will require careful planning and management to ensure protection of on ground work. 				