

WTL-MC 2: System Repair and Water Quality Treatment in the Fishery and Fig Tree Creek Sub-catchments

Conduct riparian revegetation to strengthen habitat connections from the Mulgrave River to the ranges, and investigate water treatment systems to improve water quality.

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>Building on and expanding existing revegetation efforts in these sub-catchments, in addition to investigating water treatment options will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide stronger riparian habitat connectivity from the World Heritage listed ranges in the west to the main Mulgrave River channel. ▪ Encourage collaborative relationships between partners, the community and landholders. ▪ Increase community engagement and involvement in rehabilitation projects. ▪ Improve fish and riparian habitat, bank stability and water quality in rehabilitated waterways. 				
Justification	<p>These sub-catchments include permanent systems with high environmental values, including endangered feather palm swamp remnants in the Lower Mulgrave. There are good existing aquatic connections and riparian habitat through this area, with some sections of the Mulgrave already well vegetated. A moderate investment of funds and energy could significantly contribute to reinstating riparian habitat connectivity along waterways from the main Mulgrave channel to the protected ranges to the west.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Investigate potential for both water treatment and systems repair. 2) Continue with rehabilitation and revegetation in riparian areas along all drainage lines, linking mountains with Mulgrave River main channel. 3) Conduct education and extension work, in particular focussing on community engagement at McDonnell Creek to enable widening of riparian restoration work. 4) Conduct a BMP program for farming. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strong local community landcare group with good capacity and relationships with landholders. ✓ Community and landholders already involved in revegetation in this area. ✓ Potential for marginal cane areas to be rehabilitated, revegetated or reinstated as wetlands, without significantly affecting productivity. ✓ Opportunity to build on existing work to achieve excellent riparian connectivity along creeks and tributaries across farmland from the main Mulgrave channel to the ranges in the west. ✗ Important to maintain momentum in this area as loss of riparian vegetation would threaten the connections from the Mulgrave to ranges. 				