

## WTL-MSN 1: Deliver a BMP Program to Reduce Erosion into Saltwater Creek

Assist farmers in the Saltwater Creek sub-catchment to reduce sediment entering waterways.

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|--|--|---|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 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>Reducing current levels of sediment entering the system will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve overall water quality and reef health in the region.</li> <li>▪ Reduce the amount of land being lost to erosive effects.</li> <li>▪ Increase productive land for farmers to utilise for cropping.</li> <li>▪ Increase efficiencies in agricultural systems and reduce environmental impacts.</li> </ul>  |   |                            |                                  |  |
| Justification                                      | <p>Riparian vegetation in this area has been highly impacted over the past 150 years with many of the streambanks cleared of native vegetation and highly invasive weeds taking hold in the upper catchment areas. The predominant land use in the catchment is cane farming with some small lifestyle and hobby blocks especially in the Whyanbeel valley. Saltwater Creek Catchment encompasses the sub catchments of Coop and Whyanbeel. The water that runs through these sub catchments is permanent, clear and fast moving. In high rainfall events the area floods quickly but water drains through the system quickly as well. This area would benefit greatly from rehabilitation of riparian areas with native vegetation, increasing connectivity and reducing sediment run off. The biodiversity of the region would increase quickly as the catchment is situated below a large tract of relatively intact rainforest habitat which would quickly return fauna into the riparian areas if re-established.</p> |   |                            |                                  |  |
| Key steps  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Identify key landowners in the Saltwater Creek sub-catchments affected by erosion.</li> <li>2) Invite experts in the field of erosive processes to workshop issues and devise work plans with the aim of reducing the issue.</li> <li>3) Identify funding opportunities to assist financially with the works required.</li> <li>4) Support landowners to apply for grant funding or other funding opportunities.</li> <li>5) Assess the change in condition of country to evaluate the effectiveness of the works.</li> <li>6) Encourage BMP on farm to increase overall efficiencies and reduce environmental impacts.</li> </ol>   |   |                            |                                  |  |
| Feasibility considerations                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Strong capacity and expertise from within Terrain NRM.</li> <li>✓ Potential to work with other Terrain projects to value add to the overall outcomes for water quality and reef.</li> <li>✓ Increase outcomes by engaging farmers in BMP and innovative practices. Connect farmers with Terrain's Landcare Facilitator and other industry experts.</li> <li>✓ Strong industry support – Canegrowers and Mossman Agricultural Services.</li> <li>✓ Strong landowner support – cane and cattle farmers.</li> <li>✗ Landowners' perception of Qld Government not being supportive or restrictive of riverine works.</li> <li>✗ Very expensive to undertake hard works – will require funding to facilitate meaningful and long term outcomes.</li> </ul>   |   |                            |                                  |  |