WTL-MSN 2: Riparian Restoration, Drainage and Wetland Repair in Carson Sub-catchment

Investigate and implement appropriate restoration activities in the Carson sub-catchment, including revegetation, drainage work and wetland repair.

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

Targeting connectivity issues and riparian health in the Carson sub-catchment will:

- Increase resilience of farmers and environment to external factors such as global warming and high rainfall events.
- Improve overall water quality and reef health in region by increasing riparian corridors and improving water flow and treatment systems.
- Increase connectivity, leading to greater outcomes for fish passage and overall health of the system.

Justification

Carson is a small sub-catchment bordering the northern bank of the Mossman River. Currently there is very little riparian vegetation on the eastern side of the Captain Cook Highway, no connectivity of the drainage system and little to no filtration systems available. It is severely modified, with cane farming the predominant land use on the fertile plains. The area is highly disconnected, with barriers present on drains, very little riparian vegetation on channels, erosion issues and very few treatment systems to treat any nitrogen or sediment load in the freshwater system eg. wetlands or biofilters. Riparian restoration, including revegetation and repair of drainage systems and wetlands, will result in a significant improvement in water quality and riparian health in this area.

Key steps

1) Research and identify key areas which are at highest risk or would most benefit from intervention.
2) Identify key landowners and assess enthusiasm for undertaking projects on their land.
3) Invite experts in the field of riparian revegetation, reconnecting systems and treatment of runoff from farms.
4) Identify funding opportunities to assist financially for any works identified.
5) Support landowners to apply for grant funding or other funding opportunities.
6) Assess the “before” and “after” condition of country to evaluate the effectiveness of the works.
7) Encourage BMP on farm to increase overall efficiencies and reduce environmental impacts.

Feasibility considerations

- ✓ Strong capacity and expertise from within Terrain NRM.
- ✓ Potential to work with other Terrain projects to value add to the overall outcomes for water quality and reef.
- ✓ Increase outcomes by engaging farmers in BMP and innovative practices. Connect farmers with Terrain’s Landcare Facilitator and other industry experts.
- × Resistance of farmers who feel that they have tried it all before or sceptical of value of outcomes.
- × May be difficult to implement remediation work such as riparian corridors as farmers reluctant to “lose” good farming land.