WTL-MSN 3: Sediment Reduction in Mowbray River

Conduct BMP and riparian restoration work to reduce sediment in the Mowbray River.

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	Reducing sediment loads in the Mowbray River will: ▪ Improve overall water quality and reef health in region by increasing riparian corridors, improving water flow and restoring natural treatment systems. ▪ Increase system connectivity, leading to greater outcomes for fish passage and overall health of the system. ▪ Minimise loss of farming land due to erosive effects.
Justification	The Mowbray River is affected by high sediment loads which are entering the system from the Finn sub-catchment. Finn sub-catchment is located on the western border of the Mossman catchment high behind the Mowbray valley. It is more culturally and physically associated with the Julatten region, but the water captured in the Finn travels east whereas water from the Julatten area flows west. Finn is highly impacted with a great deal of clearing of the riparian vegetation, high disconnect and sediment loads. The Mowbray River is very turbid during high rainfall events and as the majority of the river travels through national park at the top of the catchment, the Finn is most likely to be the predominant impact on water quality. BMP and an increase in riparian corridors will see an improvement in water quality entering the Mowbray River and decreased sediment reaching the Great Barrier Reef basin.
Key steps	1) Research and identify key areas in Finn 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.