

WTL-TC 1: Tully Syndicate Catchment Repair Options

A range of catchment repair, riparian restoration, water treatment and land management activities can be applied within this section of the catchment to bring significant improvements in water quality in the Tully River, as well as further downstream in the Great Barrier Reef.

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>Implementing a broad range of catchment repair projects within this section of the Tully River will bring many benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved water quality in wetlands, waterways, in-shore lagoons and coastal and reef systems, including reduced sediment, pesticide and herbicide loads. ▪ Improved adaptability and resilience of our region's waterways and coastal systems to impacts of climate change. ▪ Improved infiltration into groundwater aquifers. ▪ Increased habitat and connectivity, benefiting a range of aquatic species. ▪ Increased community awareness and stewardship of waterways projects. 				
Justification	<p>The area has been identified through hotspot mapping as having a high risk for DIN. The catchment is contained, with only two points at which water from all drainage discharges in the Tully River, providing potential for installing effective treatment systems to provide good water quality outcomes. The Tully township and Tully Sugar Mill are located within this sub-catchment, providing opportunities for good partnerships and community involvement. The area is very prone to flooding, which impacts local communities, agricultural production and transport networks. There is already an extensive drainage network and residual wetland areas, providing a good starting point for further on-ground work.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In collaboration with landholders, develop and implement appropriate programs focussing on practice change to improve water quality. 2) Develop plans for and install treatment systems at the bottom of the drainage network. 3) Investigate systems repair opportunities for Roper Creek, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders. 4) Investigate opportunities for constructed wetlands in oxbow areas prior to draining into the Tully River. 5) Investigate the potential to install a bioremediation plant. 6) Implement a monitoring program, including water quality monitoring, before and after interventions. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ There is already local water quality monitoring done by the Tully Sugar Mill, which can provide good baseline data prior to any intervention. ✓ There are only two main discharge points into the Tully River, providing good opportunities for installation of effective treatment systems. ✗ Despite existing and extensive drainage networks, there are still flooding and inundation issues. ✗ Waterway projects can present difficulties for on-ground work, including poor access, steep, uneven terrain, risk of flooding and crocodiles. 				