

## WTL-TC 6: Enhancing Existing Wetlands – Lower Tully

Installing local treatment systems within the lower Tully catchment will improve overall water quality within the catchment, as well as protecting and enhancing existing wetlands.

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>The installation of treatment systems within the lower reaches of the Tully catchment will provide a range of benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved water quality in freshwater river systems, in-shore lagoons and reef systems, through reduced sediment, pesticide and herbicide loads.</li> <li>Protection of existing wetland values.</li> <li>Improved adaptability and resilience of our region's waterways to impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Improved habitat and connectivity for a range of aquatic species.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>Protecting and enhancing existing wetland systems is critical to improving water quality and maintaining overall catchment health. Maintaining the health of existing systems also avoids the need for complex and expensive restoration. This section is a closed system with few landholders, providing the opportunity to engage with all land owners and include all properties, providing significant environmental outcomes for local waterways and the reef system.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, including landholders, research organisations, industry, Traditional Owners and government, develop an action plan to install local treatment systems.</li> <li>2) Identify opportunities for funding and implementation, including cash and other contributions and develop a delivery mechanism relevant to the area and issue, which maximises landholder and community involvement and fosters long term stewardship.</li> <li>3) Implement on ground actions and monitor environmental and capacity building outcomes.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There are some important areas of mangroves and palm swamp remnants within Hull River National Park which would benefit from improved water quality and drainage management through this project.</li> <li>✓ There are a small number of landholders within this section, providing an opportunity to involve all properties.</li> <li>✗ Drainage and waterway management projects are complex and require a wide range of technical expertise for successful implementation.</li> </ul>				