

WTL – UJC 1: Reduce Erosion in the Upper Johnstone Catchment

Assist landholders, predominantly from grazing properties, to fix erosion hot spots and re-install riparian vegetation in the Upper Johnstone Catchment to reduce sediment run off and increase biodiversity.

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	Conducting a program to encourage landscape repair along the steep undulating hills and creeks of grazing farms within the Upper Johnstone Catchment will result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ameliorating gully erosion and reducing sediment run off. ▪ Improved management and health of riparian areas. ▪ Improved management of upper slopes of undulating hills. ▪ Improved aquatic habitat for a range of species. ▪ Reductions in sediment and nutrient run-off with associated improvements in water quality downstream in the Johnstone River and the Great Barrier Reef. ▪ Opportunities to engage with local communities and increase involvement in the project. 				
Justification	Graziers on the Tablelands have relatively small acreage, with many on very steep undulating country, prone to slumping and erosion. The high rainfall on these steep landscapes results in fast runoff, which carries significant quantities of fine sediment into the region’s waterways. Soil conservation measures, including fixing gully erosion and revegetating, are a priority due to the fast runoff, erodibility of soil and fine sediment. There are a range of effective techniques which could be used to stabilise these areas and reduce the impacts of erosion. Revegetating along the waterways and at the top of the hills will prevent slumping and sediment entering the waterways, making a significant difference to water quality.				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Research and identify key areas which are at highest risk or would most benefit from intervention. 2) Engage experts to assess gullies and revegetation sites to stabilise areas and minimise erosion. 3) Source funding to engage farmers and encourage implementation of practice changes in the Upper Johnstone Catchment. 4) Engage/contract professionals to complete on-ground work. 5) Hold workshops/field days to encourage other landholders to implement these practices. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Some landholders are already engaged and keen to proceed with further work that could be display farms. ✓ Landholders have a good relationship with Terrain and other Government departments, therefore good to partner with them. ✓ There are other catchments in the region with similar issues and solutions which we can learn from. ✓ There are opportunities for collaboration among landholders and establishment of farmer clusters to work on sediment issues. ✗ A range of techniques may be required, including engineering solutions or revegetation, and the financial cost in some areas may be relatively high. ✗ No plans developed in this area. ✗ Steep slopes make revegetation expensive and difficult. ✗ Riparian area needs to be managed to reduce weed invasion [either revegetate or crash grazing]. 				