

## WTL – UJC 3: Protecting Unique Wetlands (Bromfield Swamp and Lynches Crater) in the Upper Johnstone Catchment

Conduct research to gain a fuller understanding of these ecosystems and engage landholders to improve management and protection of these unique 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>Working in collaboration with researchers and landholders to understand and protect these unique and important wetlands, so they will be there for future generations, will provide significant benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Greater understanding of the ecosystem, allowing for better management and protection.</li> <li>▪ Improved grazing management within and around the wetlands, which will help protect their unique values.</li> <li>▪ Improved aquatic habitat and connectivity for fauna.</li> <li>▪ Improved water quality within the wetlands and downstream waterways, including reduced sediment, pesticide and herbicide loads.</li> <li>▪ Enhanced social and community benefits, resulting in strong community stewardship and ownership of projects.</li> <li>▪ Increased community awareness, through on-ground activities like revegetation projects.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>Bromfield Swamp and Lynches Crater are explosive type craters with swamp deposits 45m below the crater rim. Both craters have a breached wall, resulting in small outlet streams that drain into the Johnstone River. Both swamps were originally surrounded by rainforest, but now little remains due to clearing. These swamps contain pollen records, which provide an important record of the changes in vegetation that have occurred through time, making them environmentally significant to not only this region, but all of Queensland. Healthy, functioning wetlands also provide an important water treatment service, filtering sediments, nutrients and pollutants from the water. Both Bromfield Swamp and Lynches Crater are now modified and are actively grazed. Working with the landholders to ensure that BMP are undertaken will ensure the protection of these unique wetlands, as well as reducing the amount of sediment and pesticides reaching the Great Barrier Reef.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Engage landholders who manage these wetlands.</li> <li>2) Develop BMP with landholders and DAF.</li> <li>3) Source funding for landholders to implement changes to improve management practices.</li> <li>4) Revegetate [trees, shrubs and forbs] areas that are eroding.</li> <li>5) Engage community groups to assist.</li> <li>6) Hold workshops/field days to encourage other landholders to implement these practices.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Landholders are already aware of the uniqueness of these wetlands.</li> <li>✓ Bromfield Swamp is a significant tourist attraction to bird watchers.</li> <li>✗ A range of restoration techniques may be required and the financial cost in some areas may be relatively high.</li> <li>✗ No plans developed in this area.</li> <li>✗ Steep slopes make revegetation expensive and difficult.</li> <li>✗ Riparian area needs to be managed to reduce weed invasion [either revegetate or crash grazing].</li> </ul>				