

## WTL-JC 3: Whole of Catchment Water Quality Improvement - Maria Creek

Implement a range of initiatives, including practice change and treatment systems, in the Maria Creek catchment area to improve water quality.

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>Systematic and strategic approaches to improving water quality in the Maria Creek catchment will provide multiple benefits, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved water quality in freshwater river systems, in-shore lagoons and reef systems, including reduced sediment, pesticide and herbicide loads.</li> <li>▪ Improved adaptability and resilience of our region's waterways to impacts of climate change.</li> <li>▪ Improved aquatic habitat and connectivity.</li> <li>▪ Reduced bank erosion and sediment loads in waterways and coastal systems.</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational and tourism opportunities around waterways.</li> </ul>				
Justification	<p>The area has been identified through hotspot mapping as having a very high risk for DIN, and is impacted from highly modified drainage systems. The land is managed by a single landholder for high value agricultural production. With one landholder managing the entire sub-catchment, there is potential for practice changes and treatment systems to benefit the entire system. There is an existing wetland at the site, providing the opportunity for restoration and expansion.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Collaborate with landholder and relevant technical experts to review existing information to determine sources and contributors to poor water quality.</li> <li>2) Identify and implement changes to practice or treatment systems which will provide the greatest improvements to water quality.</li> <li>3) Develop and implement a water quality monitoring program to assess the effectiveness of treatment options and practice changes.</li> </ol>				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ There is only one landholder (MSF), so there is potential for the entire area to be included.</li> <li>✓ The sub-catchment is contained.</li> <li>✓ There is potential to link to existing projects in the area, including a P2R monitoring site and the MSF Project Uplift.</li> <li>✗ Drainage in this area has been highly modified for agricultural purposes.</li> <li>✗ The area has very high agricultural production, so landholders may not be willing to be involved in practices which may reduce available agricultural land or production values.</li> </ul>				