



Legend

 Rainforest

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Meters

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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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Walter Hill Range

- The Walter Hill Range supports Australia's longest and widest east-west rainforest corridor.
- It provides continuous rainforest from the coastal lowlands at Mission Beach up to the southern Atherton Tablelands at Ravenshoe.
- The corridor allows rainforest species to move on a daily, seasonal or longer basis, including helping offspring find their own habitat.
- Because it's a big corridor, it's more resilient to cyclones, weeds and other disturbances, especially if we keep the corridor intact and reconnect fragmented parts.
- The corridor will become more important if the climate becomes hotter or drier, allowing lowland species to move to cooler or wetter climates on the eastern Atherton Tablelands.
- Much of the corridor is protected as National Park. However some of the corridor is on private land, particularly in the Friday Pocket/East Feluga/Smiths Gap area. It's to the credit of these landholders that the corridor is still relatively intact.

Smiths Gap

Smiths Gap (or Maadi) is a valley in the Walter Hill Range corridor, so there are lots of creeks there, which is great for wildlife moving through. But the gentler topography also means more roads and other developments have fragmented the corridor. However, if all stakeholders work together, we can find solutions to maintain and enhance the rainforest connectivity at Smiths Gap and therefore the wider corridor.

With Australian and Queensland Government support, Terrain NRM is assisting C4 to work with Smiths Gap landholders to control weeds and revegetate priority areas. The Main Roads department are also aware of the importance of considering cassowaries and other wildlife in future highway work in the Smiths Gap area.



For more info:

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Image: Five year old Cassy from Smiths Gap is looking forward to less weeds and more habitat. (Valerie Boll)