

River Improvement Trusts

Strategic Plans

2013-2021

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Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust
Cairns River Improvement Trust
Cassowary Coast River Improvement Trust
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Ipswich Rivers Improvement Trust
Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust
Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust
Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust
Warwick Shire River Improvement Trust
Whitsunday River Improvement Trust

BURDEKIN SHIRE RIVERS IMPROVEMENT TRUST

STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022

VISION

The protection of people and property from damage associated with riverine flooding, as well as stabilisation and protection of the bed and banks of the Burdekin River, Haughton River and associated streams in the Burdekin Local Government area.

PURPOSE

The Burdekin Shire Rivers Improvement Trust is a statutory body constituted under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and Regulation and operates under the powers and responsibilities of that legislation.

ROLES

The roles of the Trust are to:

- Provide flood mitigation as far as possible working within legislation to residents within the Trust's area.
- Undertake Riverine protection works to address erosion, vegetation management and associated issues.
- Raise awareness of riverine management issues and to undertake projects which improve the health of stream banks, waterways and riparian lands and the health of downstream waterways.
- Restore and stabilise the bed and banks of rivers and associated streams in the Burdekin Local Government area.

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Trust are to:

- Operate within its statutory limits; referencing relevant acts, institutional policies and other sub regional and local waterway management plans in its decision making.
- Maintain strong networks with key state, regional and local organisations to ensure that the Trust's programs and activities are well targeted, consistent and coordinated to achieve the best outcomes.
- Operate very closely with Burdekin Shire Council.
- Commit to improving the health of waterways and riparian lands within the Burdekin Shire region by:
 - The systematic eradication of destructive invasive vegetation.
 - Promoting and, where possible, implementing re-vegetation, bank stabilisation and debris removal projects.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The Trust operates on funding predominantly provided by the Burdekin Shire Council via the annual Precept and from subsidies for identified works through the Department of Natural Resources & Mines.

The Trust applies for State and Federal grant funds when available to assist with various activities including flood mitigation works, training and planning.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. INTERACTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY

Strategy: The Trust will actively engage with stakeholders and the community in the development and implementation of works programs and to ensure any concerns are addressed and priority projects delivered.

This will be implemented by:

- Partnering with key agencies in the delivery of stream management works
- Interacting with other local bodies with similar interests
- Improving community understanding of problems facing the regions rivers and streams and accepting that not all demands can be met
- Encouraging and influencing others to take up their responsibilities

2. MAINTAIN PHYSICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY OF WATER COURSES

Strategy: The Trust will continue to progress and implement the priorities of the Trust's vision by developing and maintaining bank protection, bank stabilisation and stream bed improvements to reduce erosion, changes to in-stream alignment during flood events and impacts of water quality on Great Barrier Reef.

This will be implemented by:

- Including priority works in Annual Works Programs.
- Promoting the value of well-structured riparian zone vegetation and encouraging landholders to protect and maintain these areas.
- Continuing to seek additional government funding support and maximising funding opportunities from external sources.
- Where approved undertaking identified works for protection of assets.

3. PHYSICAL INTEGRITY OF RIVERS

Strategy: To limit the impacts of stream siltation and to ensure the control and prevention of stream bank erosion that threatens public and private land and infrastructure or stream aesthetic and habitat values.

This will be implemented by:

- Identifying key sediment source
- Undertaking works to limit sediment generating from these sources
- Undertaking erosion control works on a needs basis
- Promoting the adoption of stream and riparian management practices that will minimise the exposure to and potential for stream bank erosion
- Alleviating flow constrictions that are contributing to erosion, causing flood break-outs or otherwise are threatening stream stability

4. RIPARIAN ZONE MANAGEMENT

Strategy: The Trust will encourage landholders to adopt sound riparian zone management practices in order to reduce accelerated stream bed and bed delete degradation and erosion and improve the ecological functioning of the stream.

This will be implemented by:

- Undertaking and maintaining riparian tree plantings where applicable;
- Encouraging land owners to allow for riparian buffering where applicable;
- Implementing erosion control works
- Removing pest vegetation
- Improving riparian zones with native vegetation where applicable

5. FLOODING

Strategy: The Trust will maintain previous works to minimise flooding and areas at risk of bank breaches.

This will be implemented by:

- Inspecting and removing debris and inappropriate dense vegetation where identified to enable clear flows.

CAIRNS RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

Management of the Barron, Mulgrave and Russell Rivers and tributaries, and creeks draining to Trinity Inlet and to the coast at the Northern Beaches to protect the community, State and local government transport and other infrastructure, and the extensive agricultural areas adjacent to those watercourses in the Cairns Local Government Area against flood damage.

The local government area includes the centers of Cairns, Edmonton, Gordonvale and Babinda.

In maintaining this vision, the Cairns River Improvement Trust recognizes that these rivers and their tributaries will experience major flood events and flood breakouts. The most recent major flooding occurred in 2018.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLE

The Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the River Improvement Trust Act 1940.

The role of the Trust is to help to

- mitigate flooding and reduce flood damage in urban and rural areas
- help the community recover from flooding associated with extreme weather events or cyclones
- restore and stabilize the banks of the major rivers and tributaries and other streams to help protect the community and industries in the Cairns local Government area from flood damage, and to protect State and local government transport and other infrastructure
- maintain the extensive river management works constructed by the Trust from Cairns to Babinda.
- Undertake works of stream improvement to help prevent changes in course of the rivers and creeks, and to address erosion and associated riverine problems that cause economic, social and environmental problems for the State and the community

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The Trust works with the Cairns Regional Council, the local sugar industry, grower groups and others with like interests such as government departments and natural resource management groups concerned with water quality improvement for river flows to the Great Barrier Reef.

In particular, works of stream improvement the Trust continue to help reduce the movement of sediment downstream in times of flood events with resultant improvement in the quality of flood flows to the Great Barrier Reef.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Base funding for the Trust's annual works programs is provided by the Cairns Regional Council as an annual precept. Over the 46 years since it was constituted, the Trust has also been successful in securing State and Commonwealth grant funding at times that has played a very important part in delivery of priority major works. That funding support has included grant funds from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. Other funding schemes have included the Commonwealth's Regional Flood Mitigation Program and flood damage disaster recovery funding under the Cairns River Improvement Trust Strategic Plan 2019

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Commonwealth/State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery and Community Resilience Arrangements.

Most recently, the Trust was successful in securing significant subsidy on capital works for flood mitigation approved by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Queensland Reconstruction Authority under the 2016-17 and 2018-19 Grants and Subsidies Natural Disaster Resilience Programs.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Interaction with State Government. The Trust will continue to encourage the State Government to participate in the funding of the investigation and construction of priority flood mitigation and river management works in the Barron, Mulgrave and Russell River catchments. The Trust will continue to seek funding under available Commonwealth and State programs to advance priority projects under the forward works plan
- Interaction with community. The Trust will work with stakeholders to ensure concerns are addressed and priority projects delivered. The Trust will also continue to have close communication with the Cairns Regional Council on planning (land use), the flood mitigation works and associated flood management
- Physical integrity of the major river. The Trust will continue to progress the priorities of its river management plans to achieve the outcomes sought under those plans. The Barron, Mulgrave and Russell drain some of the heaviest rainfall areas of Australia.

PRIORITIES OF THE 2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

• Barron, Mulgrave and Russell Rivers

Historically breakouts in reaches of the major rivers have occurred in the river valleys. There have been were a lot of course changes since the last major sea level rise about 9000 years ago⁺. Since that time, the rivers have migrated in the alluvium gradually filled the valleys and created the fertile flood plains and delta formations on which our agricultural economy is based today. However it created the silty clay banks that are so vulnerable to the vegetation loss and bank erosion. The Trusts priority is to keep the rivers where they are, and to protect the urban and rural areas settled in the Cairns Local Government area from flooding and flood damage and loss.

+ Ref: Rocks and Landscapes of the Cairns District, Qld Dept of Mines, 1989

The Trust has done a considerable amount of work over the last 46 years to improve the capacity of the river channels, stabilize the riverbanks and natural flood breakout areas and revegetate those areas. It has done work at over 600 sites.

The last serious flood breakout occurred from the Barron River just north of Thomatis Creek in 2018. The breakout was towards the Cook Highway. It was repaired by the Trust to prevent worsening in the next major flood.

Priority Action – More remains to be done. Bank restoration and stabilization. Riparian area revegetation. Mitigation of flood breakouts and inundation of urban and rural lands. Annual maintenance of that extensive system of stabilization works is a priority to continue to deliver those benefits

Priority Action – Water quality improvement. Repair of bank erosion and reestablishment of riparian vegetation to improve the riverine environment and reduce the contribution of sediment from bank erosion to suspended sediment load moving out to the inner Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

Cairns River Improvement Trust Strategic Plan 2019

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- **Tributaries and Creeks**

Problems with bank erosion and vegetation loss cause loss of integrity and reduced flood flow capacity that cause problems on adjacent lands. After cyclones, it is the smaller tributaries and creeks that suffer the worst blockages and problems in the urban areas.

Priority Action – Bank restoration, stabilization and sensible revegetation to maintain flow capacity, stream integrity and reduce the contribution of sediment from bank erosion to suspended sediment load of the major rivers

Cairns River Improvement Trust

August, 2019



STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

VISION STATEMENT

Working together with partners and the community to deliver measurable improvements through adaptive management in the protection, restoration and rehabilitation of rivers, streams and catchments in the trusts area.

FUNCTIONS & ROLE

The Cassowary Coast River Improvement Trust is a statutory body constituted in 2013 following the merge of the former Cardwell Shire and Johnstone Shire River Improvement Trusts and operates in accordance with powers under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and Regulation.

Trust responsibilities include:

- Undertaking works to repair flood damage to the bed and banks of rivers and streams in urban and rural areas;
- Planning, implementing and maintaining flood mitigation works of community benefit;
- Regulating activities with the potential to result in erosion to the banks of rivers or to worsen flooding;
- Participation with the community and other natural resource management groups to achieve healthy and stable catchments and river systems, with a strong focus on improvements to water quality entering the inner lagoon of the Great Barrier Reef;
- Assist with community recovery following major natural disaster events such as flooding and cyclones.

STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Trust has an ongoing role to identify and analyse its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and the development of the Strategic Plan reflects the desired goals, objectives and strategies of the organisation to achieve its strategic vision.

KEY CHALLENGES:

ISSUE	IMPACT	RESPONSE
Flooding and prolonged periods of wet weather	Delays with implementation of on-ground works and projects approved under AWP's	Reschedule projects to drier period of year
Financial constraints	Inability to carry out an adequate level of stream bank restoration work	Program and prioritise urgent projects and encourage landowners to contribute. Lobby State and Federal Governments to provide and maintain an adequate level of grant funding towards Annual Works Programs.
Declared Natural Disaster Events - Asset Damage Repairs Changes to NDRRA Guidelines	Funding restricted to restoration of "Essential Public Assets" excludes Rural Industries and urban communities. Decline in level of maintenance / restoration of a significant number of trust assets.	Government Representations

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTSStrategy

To operate under the *River Improvement Act 1940*, which provides for the management of river catchments for their protection and improvement and comply with all other legislative obligations.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The Trust receives funding from the following sources:

- Annual Precept - Cassowary Coast Regional Council
- State and Federal Grant Subsidy programs
- Landowner contributions towards individual projects
- Partnerships – Other NRM bodies
- NDRRA funding – where available for essential public asset repairs.

RELATIONSHIPS

The Trust relies on a strong operational relationship with local government, government agencies, community and natural resource management organisations in the delivery of its programs and objectives.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Interaction through

1. INTERACTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKAGES WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY

Strategy

The Trust will actively engage with stakeholders and the community in the development and implementation of works programs and to ensure any concerns are addressed and priority projects delivered.

Actions:

- Partner key agencies in the delivery of stream management works
- Interact/support other local bodies and agencies with similar interests
- Improve community understanding of problems facing the regions rivers and streams and accept not all demands can be met
- Encourage and influence others to take up their responsibilities.

2. MAINTAIN PHYSICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY OF WATER COURSES

Strategy

1. Continue to progress and implement the priorities of the Trust's strategies and action plans to accomplish the objectives of those plans. Studies have been undertaken for sections of the Johnstone, Tully & Murray Rivers, Jarra Creek and Meunga Creek.
2. Develop and maintain bank protection, bank stabilisation and stream bed improvements and levees where appropriate to reduce erosion, changes to in-stream alignment during flood events and impacts of water quality on Great Barrier Reef.
3. Encourage retention and protection of riparian vegetation areas and corridors and wetland areas.
4. Adopt an integrated, sustainable and innovative approach across the whole of catchment with the goal of improvement in water quality outflows to the Great Barrier Reef".

Actions:

- Include priority works in Annual Works Programs
- Assist landowners with self funded and subsidised works
- Promote the value of wetland areas and well structured riparian zone vegetation and encourage landowners to protect and maintain these areas
- Continue to seek additional government funding support and maximise funding opportunities from external sources
- Work with stakeholders to plan, devise and implement equitable and sustainable river management practices.

MONITORING PROGRESS

The Trust will develop key performance indicators where possible to measure effectiveness and efficiency of strategies in its plan. These indicators will be developed internally, in respect of outcomes achieved in meeting Trust objectives.



Cassowary Coast
RIVER IMPROVEMENT
TRUST

2019 – 2020 Operational Plan

To be reviewed quarterly

This Operational Plan sets the direction for the Cassowary Coast River Improvement Trust decision making over the next twelve months



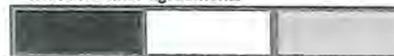
CASSOWARY COAST RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

2019/20

Operational Plan - River and Stream Management

Goal: Delivery of measurable improvements through adaptive management in protection, restoration and rehabilitation of rivers, streams and catchments

Progress Legend: Requires Action Monitor On Target

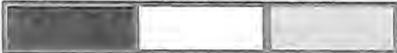
Outcome 1.1: Interaction through partnerships and linkages with stakeholders and community			
Strategy 1.2: Actively engage with stakeholders and the community in the development and implementation of works programs and to ensure any concerns are addressed and priority projects delivered			
Activity 1 - Partner/support key agencies in the delivery of stream management works			
KPI Priority water quality and stream improvement and wetland projects for funding under government and trust sponsored programs identified and included in AWP 2019/20	Target 80% of budget revenue estimate	Progress - % complete 	Comment
Activity 2 - Interact with other local bodies and agencies with similar interests			
KPI Meetings with representatives of Terrain NRM, Johnstone River Catchment Management Association, Landcare, Trust deputations, workshops WTMIP	Target 4 meetings p.a.	Progress - no. meetings attended 	Comment
Activity 3 - Improve community understanding of problems facing the regions rivers and streams and accept not all demands can be met			
KPI Briefings and site meetings landholders, rural industry and community organisations. Media releases.	Target 20 site meetings / inspections 2 Media Releases	Progress - no. site meetings/inspections no. media releases 	Comment
Activity 4 - Encourage and influence others to take up their responsibilities			
KPI Effectiveness of relationships with others with an interest in Natural Resource Management.	Target 2 Successful Partnership Agreements / 5 arrangements generating tangible benefits	Progress - no. active partnership agreements - no. landholder agreements 	Comment

Outcome 2.1: Maintain physical and environmental integrity of water courses

Strategy 2.1: Continue to progress and implement the priorities of the Trust's strategies and action plans to accomplish the objectives of those plans. Studies have been undertaken for sections of the Johnstone River, Liverpool Creek, Tully & Murray Rivers, Jarra Creek and Meunga Creek.

Strategy 2.2: Develop and maintain bank protection, bank stabilisation and stream bed improvements and levees where appropriate to reduce erosion, changes to in-stream alignment during flood events and impacts of water quality on Great Barrier Reef.

Activity 1 - Include priority works in Annual Works Programs

KPI	Target	Progress - % of projects completed	Comment
Range of projects submitted under the Trust's Works Program 2019/20 for approval and grant allocation.	80% works completed		

Activity 2 - Assist landholders with self funded and subsidised works

KPI	Target	Progress - no. requests received Funding allocations provided	Comment
Provision of Engineering Services and Trust revenue/subsidy towards landholder projects.	10 - requests received, revenue expended, grant funding claimed		

Activity 3 - Encourage landholders to protect and maintain riparian vegetation areas, corridors and wetland areas

KPI	Target	Progress - % compliance	Comment
Compliance with existing River Improvement notices and site revegetation / rehabilitation work.	100% compliance No. of sites revegetated (new and existing)		

Activity 4 - Continue to seek additional CCRC precept, government funding support and maximise funding opportunities from external sources

KPI	Target	Progress - % of budget	Comment
Identify funding opportunities and continue with representations to government for improved funding towards Annual Works programs.	25% budget Funding requirements		



DON RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(Constituted 13th March, 1947 pursuant to the provisions of "The Burdekin River Trust Act of 1940")

STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

The protection of people and property from damage associated with Riverine flooding, as well as stabilization and protection of the bed and banks of the Don River and associated Streams in the Trust area.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLE

The Don River Improvement Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and associated *Regulation*.

The role of the Trust is to provide flood mitigation protection as far as possible (working under legislation) to residents within the Trust's area, and undertake Riverine protection works to address erosion and associated issues.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The Trust operates very closely with the Whitsunday Regional Council, as well as local identified organisations with like interests in the delivery of projects and aims.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Funding for the Trust is provided predominantly by the Whitsunday Regional Council via the annual Precept. As well, subsidies for identified works through the Department of Natural Resources & Mines. State and Federal grant monies are also utilised where available (ie flood mitigation works, flood damage repair works).

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Interaction with Stakeholders

Strategy

The Trust will actively engage and work with stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed and agreed projects delivered.

Actions

- Interaction with associated and like minded local bodies
- Encouraging local property owners to report areas of interest/concern
- Constant and close communication with Whitsunday Regional Council regarding planning (land use), engineering (levees), and associated flooding concerns

2. Institutional Arrangements

Strategy

To operate within its statutory limits.

Action

- Restrict work to only those approved
- Follow specific acts and policies

3. Riparian Vegetation

Strategy

Encourage retention and protection of appropriate riparian vegetation.

Actions:

- Undertake and maintain riparian tree plantings where applicable
- Encourage land owners to allow for riparian buffering where applicable

4. Physical integrity of water courses

Strategy

Utilisation of hard engineering and less expensive soft engineering options where applicable and for protection purposes.

Actions

- Where approved undertake identified works for protection of assets
- Where not a Trust function (or not approved), assist land owner with self funded works

5. Flooding

Strategy

Development and maintenance of flood prevention levees where suitable, and maintaining clear streams.

Actions

- Continued development and investigation of enhancement (raising) of existing levee system
- Constant maintenance of existing levee system, including functioning floodgates
- Inspection and removal of debris and inappropriate dense vegetation where identified to enable clear flows

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.

IPSWICH RIVERS IMPROVEMENT TRUST STRATEGIC PLAN

OUR VISION

That the Trust's actions are enhancing the stability and functioning of watercourses and are contributing to the economic, social and cultural development of the city of Ipswich

OUR FUNCTIONS AND ROLE

The function of the Trust is to carry out works designed to improve the flow of water in the rivers and tributaries within the City of Ipswich to correct erosion and provide flood mitigation. The Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940*.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The trust maintains strong networks and memberships of key state, regional and local organisations to ensure that the Trust's programs and activities are well targeted, consistent and coordinated to achieve the best outcomes.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The Trust operates on funding from a number of sources, including a precept from Ipswich City Council, subsidies from the Department of Natural Resources & Mines and access to grants from the State & Federal Government.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Interaction with Stakeholders

Strategy

The Trust will actively seek the views of all known stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed.

Actions

- Membership of and partnering with regional NRM planning and implementation bodies
- Actively seek opportunities to engage with the wider community regarding the Trust activities.
- Develop a work plan based on needs and community/stakeholder support.

2. Institutional Arrangements:

Strategy

The Trust is obliged to operate within its statutory limits.

Action

The Trust will reference relevant acts, institutional policies and other sub regional and local waterway management plans in its decision making.

3. Riparian Zone Management

Strategy

The Trust will encourage landholders to adopt sound riparian zone management practices in order to reduce accelerated streambed and bank degradation and erosion and improve the ecological functioning of the stream.

Actions:

Support and encourage practices and undertake actions where funded such as:

- Managed grazing of riparian areas
- Woody weed removal
- Stream bank re-vegetation
- Stream bank fencing for seedling protection
- Erosion control works
- Construction of off-stream stock watering points

4. Physical integrity of water courses

Strategy

Hard engineering works to militate against stream-bank or channel erosion in critical areas and support for relatively inexpensive soft engineering solutions in grazing and cropping lands while maintaining a balance between reducing erosion and improving ecological requirements.

Actions

- Conduct a condition assessment of watercourses
- Promote the value of well structured riparian vegetation
- Undertake stream-bank and channel management projects

5. Water Management

Strategy

Actively support the development of water resource plans

Action

Participate in forums to seek a fair allocation for all sectors including rural, commercial and environment

6. Ecological Health and Water Quality

Strategy

Work in partnership with all sectors of the community to implement programs that address water quality improvement

Action

- Participate in forums that seek targeted scientific based action,
- Undertake relevant actions in conjunction with other partners.

7. Flooding

Strategy

Support prohibition of land-filling within designated flood lines,
Support the incorporation of water breakout points for secondary flood channels into levee design and construction,

Support removal of dense exotic riparian vegetation and

Support the development of flood evacuation plans.

Actions

- Undertake flood studies
- Identify risk and solutions
- Implement projects such as removal of in-stream log and debris jams and remove woody weed vegetation problematic
- Encourage responsible agencies to implement the strategies.

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.

Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2017

1 OUR VISION

Scenic Rim Rivers Improvement Trust will provide a highly efficient and effective contribution to the sustainable management of waterways and riparian areas within the Scenic Rim Region.

2 OUR PURPOSE

The Trust is a statutory body constituted under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and Regulation and operating under the powers and responsibilities of that legislation. During the period 2013 - 2017 we will work in partnership with Scenic Rim Regional Council, landholders and community groups to raise awareness of riverine management issues and to undertake projects which improve the health of stream banks, waterways and riparian lands and the health of downstream waterways.

3 OUR OBJECTIVES

We are committed to improving the health of waterways and riparian lands within the Scenic Rim Region by:

- the systematic eradication of destructive invasive vegetation
- promoting and, where possible, implementing re-vegetation, bank stabilization and debris removal projects

4 RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVES

Our operations will contribute towards the Government objective of improving the health of the environment in Queensland, including protection of its flora and fauna, landscapes, pristine waterways and biodiversity.

5 STRATEGIES

The following key strategies underlie our current Streambank Improvement Program:

- We consult with landholders and seek their in-kind contributions to the program
- We work progressively downstream with follow-up as required to minimize re-infestation of cleared areas
- To ensure that our projects are delivered in a safe and effective manner we only utilize experienced and competent contractors to undertake treatment works

6 STRATEGIC RISKS

6.1 Environmental Conditions

Significant infestations of destructive invasive plants (particularly Chinese Celtis, Cats Claws Creeper, Asparagus Vine, mulberry, broad-leaved pepper and yellow bells) are present in areas of stream bank and riparian land in the Scenic Rim Region with

potential to choke waterways (resulting in flooding), de-stabilise creek banks and out-compete native vegetation.

6.2 Financial Constraints

The Trust has no own-source revenue. The Trust is dependent on:

- Scenic Rim Regional Council to provide core financial and administrative resources required for the Trust to function
- The Queensland Government to provide the legislative framework and support services needed to facilitate efficient operation of the Trust
- Access to external funding sources to undertake special project works
- Landholder commitment to responsible management of riparian lands and support for the Trust's initiatives by undertaking complementary works

7 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We anticipate that the following outcomes will be achieved during the 2013 to 2017 period:

7.1 Streambank Improvement Program

Subject to ongoing financial support by Scenic Rim Regional Council, the eradication of Chinese Celtis will be completed in the following stream sections:

- Bremer River and tributaries south of Rosevale township
- Warrill Creek and tributaries south of Kalbar Connection Road
- Teviot Brook and tributaries above Wyaralong Dam
- Logan River and tributaries south of Beaudesert township
- Albert River and tributaries south of Kerry Bridge

7.2 Project Works

Subject to the availability of grant programs, the Trust will obtain funding and undertake further project works consistent with its objectives.

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.



Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust

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STANTHORPE SHIRE RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST **STRATEGIC PLAN**

VISION

For the Severn River, Pike Creek and their tributaries to be managed for economic and ecological sustainability

FUNCTIONS AND ROLES

The Stanthorpe Shire River Improvement Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and associated *Regulation*.

The main roles of the Trust are to:

1. Undertake Riverine protection works to address erosion, vegetation management and associated issues
2. Manage the water resources, particularly within the Severn River Catchment
3. Being a local advocate for achieving balanced and sustainable water resource management.

KEY MANAGEMENT ISSUES

1. Interaction with stakeholders

Strategy

The Trust will actively engage and work with stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed and agreed projects delivered.

Actions

- Become actively involved in the process of Integrated Catchment Management
- Develop and implement a community education and involvement program
- Encouraging local property owners to report areas of interest/concern
- Constant and close communication with Southern Downs Regional Council regarding planning, engineering and associated flooding concerns

2. Institutional Arrangements

Strategy

To maintain current operations and review broader range of issues to continue to fulfil community and Government expectations for river management while operating within statutory limits.

Action

- Restrict work to only those approved
- Follow specific acts and policies
- Establish ties with other Trusts in South Queensland as well as those in North Queensland
- Seek funding from a broad range of sources and develop a case for appropriate funding levels
- Enhance in-house expertise in river management; encourage development of river management training programs and establish a means of providing specialist river management advice

3. Riparian Zone Vegetation Management

Strategy

To manage in-stream and riparian vegetation.

Actions:

- Develop a co-ordinated plan for managing and rehabilitating riparian zone vegetation
- Encourage land owners to adopt appropriate riparian zone management practices
- Develop and implement a riparian weeds management program in conjunction with DNRM, Landcare and landholders
- Raise community awareness of problem weeds and control techniques

4. Physical integrity of Streams

Strategy

To limit the impacts of stream siltation and to ensure the control and prevention of stream bank erosion which threatens public and private land and infrastructure or stream aesthetic and habitat values.

Actions

- Identify key sediment sources
- Undertake works to limit sediment generating from these sources
- Undertake erosion control works on a needs basis
- Promote the adoption of stream and riparian management practices that will minimise the exposure to and potential for stream bank erosion
- Alleviate flow constrictions that are contributing to erosion, causing flood break-outs or otherwise are threatening stream stability

5. Water Management

Strategy

To liaise with DNRM to ensure a balanced approach to water management planning and allocation.

Actions

- Liaise with DNRM to ensure that the water management plan balances consumptive and in-stream water requirements
- Encourage DNRM, Council, and producer/environmental groups to co-operate in the development of a co-ordinated land and water resource management strategy
- Liaise with DNRM to ensure that proposed water management plans address biological and equity issues associated with further water storage development

6. Ecological Stream Health & Water Quality

Strategy

To provide inputs to ensure that water quality issues are appropriately managed and to improve water quality through its activities and programs.

Actions

- Support the development and implementation of a 'whole of catchment' water quality monitoring and management plan
- Perform analysis of environmental impacts of water abstraction
- Raise awareness of requirements of fish passage around weir construction and modifications; and on the problems associated with invasive/noxious fish species

7. Land Management

Strategy

To ensure that land management practices and policies are appropriate to the protection of the physical and biological integrity of streams

Actions

- Encourage the preparation of detailed land suitability mapping
- Promote the use of this mapping as the basis for future land resource planning and management

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.



WAMBO SHIRE RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

The protection of people and property from damage associated with riverine flooding, as well as stabilization and protection of the bed and banks of the Rivers and associated Streams in the Trust area.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLE

The Wambo Shire River Improvement Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and associated *Regulation*.

The role of the Trust is to provide flood mitigation protection as far as possible (working under legislation) to residents within the Trust's area, and undertake Riverine protection works to address erosion and associated issues.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The Trust operates very closely with the Western Downs Regional Council, as well as local identified organisations with like interests (such as the Brigalow Jimbour Floodplains Group) in the delivery of projects and aims.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Funding for the Trust is provided predominantly by the Western Downs Regional Council via Precept requests. As well as, subsidies for identified works through the Department of Natural Resources & Mines. State and Federal grant monies are also utilised where available (ie flood mitigation works, flood damage repair works).

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Interaction with Stakeholders

Strategy

The Trust will actively engage and work with stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed and agreed projects delivered.

Actions

- Interaction with associated and like minded local bodies (i.e. Brigalow Jimbour Floodplains Group)
- Encouraging local property owners to report areas of interest/concern
- Encouraging local property owners to provide in kind assistance
- Constant and close communication with Western Downs Regional Council regarding planning (land use), engineering (levees), and associated flooding concerns

2. Institutional Arrangements

Strategy

Strategic Plan - Adopted 20th May 2013



WAMBO SHIRE RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

To operate within its statutory limits.

Action

- Restrict work to only those approved schemes
- Follow specific acts and policies

3. Riparian Vegetation

Strategy

Encourage retention and protection of appropriate riparian vegetation.

Actions:

- Undertake and maintain riparian tree plantings where applicable
- Encourage land owners to allow for riparian buffering where applicable

4. Physical integrity of water courses

Strategy

Utilisation of hard engineering and less expensive soft engineering options where applicable for protection and restoration purposes.

Actions

- Where approved undertake identified works for protection of assets
- Where not a Trust function(or not approved), assist land owner with self funded works

5. Flooding

Strategy

Development and maintenance of flood prevention levees where suitable, and maintaining clear streams.

Actions

- Continued development and investigation of enhancement of existing levee system
- Constant maintenance of existing flood levee system
- Inspection and removal of debris and inappropriate dense vegetation where identified to enable clear flows

6. Monitoring Services

Strategy

Assist with early warning advices for weather events

Actions

- Constantly maintain existing system
- Regular inspections of existing system

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.

**WARWICK SHIRE RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST
STRATEGIC PLAN
ADOPTED 14 JUNE 2013**



OUR VISION

Healthy and vibrant riverine systems for the Upper Condamine Catchment Area

OUR PURPOSE

To assist landholders and the community to promote enjoyment of the river systems while protecting native vegetation, river beds and bank structures

OUR OBJECTIVES

1. Effective Trust interaction with stakeholders
2. Be a lead agency in river management
3. Healthy native riparian zone vegetation management
4. Excellent management of the physical integrity of the area's streams to ensure hydraulic capacity
5. Assist the community with water management, land management and water quality

OUR STRATEGIES

- 1.1 Become actively involved in the process of Integrated Catchment Management.
- 1.2 Develop and implement a community education and involvement program.
- 2.1 Establish networks with State Council of River Trusts, State Government and other river associations to develop specialist river management knowledge.
- 2.2 Be actively involved in the development of new legislation.
- 3.1 Undertake revegetation programs in strategic areas and provide conditions amenable to natural tree regeneration.
- 3.2 Implement exotic weed management plans.
- 3.3 Encourage landholders to adopt appropriate riparian zone management practices.
- 4.1 Undertake recurrent erosion control works to ensure bank stabilisation.

- 4.2 Undertake works appropriate to reduce the frequency and extent of flood break-outs and undertake planning works to reduce exposure to flood related damages.
- 4.3 Control erosion generating sediment loads and undertake minor de-silting works.
- 4.4 Alleviate flow constrictions that threaten stream stability while encouraging snag management to ensure the protection of stream habitat values.
- 5.1 Liaise with Government and the community to ensure that stream health, stability and water quality are catered for in water management planning and allocation.
- 5.2 Preparation of detailed mapping for future land resource planning and management.

OUR OUTCOMES

- 1. Improved bank stabilisation and hydraulic capacity of the river systems
- 2. Improved riparian zones with native vegetation
- 3. Increased knowledge of landholders on riverine protection practices
- 4. Minimise stream course changes
- 5. Minimise damage to private and public infrastructure through flood mitigation

OUR KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Key Performance Indicator	Target
Community - Number of Trust Inspections Per Year	More Than One
Community - Number of Engagements with Stakeholders	More Than Twelve
Community – Key Stakeholder Satisfaction With Engagements	Greater Than 90%
Effectiveness - Project Completion	Greater Than 90%
Effectiveness – Number of Complaints Received	Less Than Five
Effectiveness – Satisfaction from Adjoining Landholders	Greater Than 80%

OUR SERVICES

The Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the River Improvement Trust Act 1940 and associated Regulation.

The function of the Trust is to carry out works that protect and improve the bed and banks of the rivers and creeks and the prevention or mitigation of flooding within the Trust Benefit Area which encompasses the whole of the former Shire of Warwick.

OUR KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Funding for the Trust is provided by Southern Downs Regional Council via an annual Precept. Further funding is through subsidies supplied by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and State and Federal grants. Other key stakeholders include the community, landholders, Condamine Alliance, Landcare Groups and other river associations.

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.



Whitsunday River Improvement Trust

Strategic Plan

VISION

To protect the township of Proserpine and surrounding area from damage associated with riverine flooding and to stabilise and protect the beds and banks of all streams within the Trust area.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLES

The Whitsunday River Improvement Trust is a statutory body that operates in accordance with the powers and responsibilities contained in the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and its regulations.

The role of the Trust is to provide flood mitigation protection to people and property within the Trust's area. Further the Trust will undertake remedial and preventative works to achieve the goals of the Trust.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The Trust maintains strong networks and memberships of key state, regional and local organisations to ensure that the Trust's programs and activities are well targeted, consistent and coordinated to achieve the best outcomes.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The Trust operates on funding from a number of sources, including a precept from Whitsunday Regional Council, subsidies from the Department of Natural Resources & Mines and access to grants from the State & Federal Government.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Interaction with Stakeholders

Strategy

The Trust will actively seek the views of all known stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed.

Actions

- Encourage local property owners to report areas of interest/concern
- Develop a work plan based on needs and community/stakeholder support.

2. Institutional Arrangements:

Strategy

The Trust will operate within its statutory limits.

Action

The Trust will reference relevant acts, institutional policies and other sub regional and local waterway management plans in its decision making.

3. Riparian Zone Management

Strategy

The Trust will encourage landholders to adopt sound riparian zone management practices in order to reduce accelerated streambed and bank degradation and erosion and improve the ecological functioning of the stream.

Actions:

Support and encourage practices and undertake actions where funded such as:

- Undertake and maintain riparian tree plantings where applicable;
- Encourage land owners to allow for riparian buffering where applicable
- Woody weed removal
- Erosion control works

4. Physical integrity of water courses

Strategy

Hard engineering works to mitigate against stream-bank or channel erosion in critical areas and support for relatively inexpensive soft engineering solutions in grazing and cropping lands while maintaining a balance between reducing erosion and improving ecological requirements.

Actions

- Promote the value of well structured riparian vegetation
- Undertake stream-bank and channel management projects
- Where not a trust function (or not approved) assist the land owner with self funded works.

5. Flooding

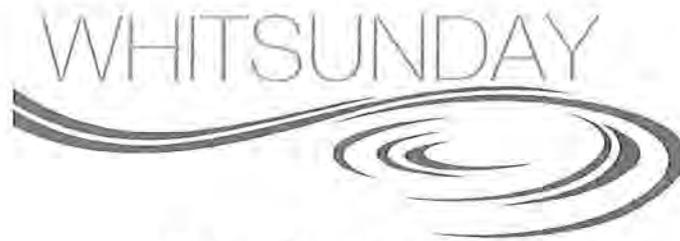
Strategy

Develop and maintain the flood prevention levees and maintain clear streams

Actions

- Maintain the existing levee system
- Inspect and remove debris and inappropriate dense vegetation where identified to enable clear flows.

This strategic plan was reviewed in August 2015 and remains current.



Rivers Improvement Trust

WHITSUNDAY RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST

OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2019-2023

1. Key Challenges

Strategy – The Trust will actively seek the views of all known stakeholders to ensure any concerns are addressed.

Actions	Performance Measure	Who Responsible
Community participation	Notices in paper and newsletters, meeting with likeminded bodies.	Chairperson/Members
Work plan based on community needs		Chairperson/Members

2. Institutional Arrangements

Strategy - The Trust is obliged to operate within its statutory limits.

Action	Performance Measure	Who Responsible
Trust to reference relevant acts & policies		Chairperson/Secretary

3. Riparian Zone Management

Strategy – The Trust will encourage landholders to adopt sound riparian zone management practices in order to reduce accelerated streambed and bank degradation and erosion and improve the ecological functioning of the stream.

Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
Undertake and maintain riparian tree planting where applicable	Length of bank re-vegetated	Chairman/Secretary/Overseer
Encourage land owners to allow for riparian buffering	Areas along stream left with vegetation	Chairperson /Overseer
Woody Weed Removal	Area of stream bank treated	Chairperson /Secretary/Engineer

Adopted: 27 August 2019

Erosion control works	Areas of stream where erosion has stopped	Chairman/Secretary/Overseer
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4. Physical integrity of water-courses

Strategy - Hard engineering works to militate against stream-bank or channel erosion in critical areas and support for relatively inexpensive soft engineering solutions in grazing and cropping lands while maintaining a balance between reducing erosion and improving ecological requirements.

Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
Promote value of well-constructed riparian vegetation	Number of promotions	Chairperson/members
Undertake stream-bank & channel management projects	Number of projects	Chairperson /Secretary/Consultant
Assist land owners with non funded works	Number of works	Chairperson /Secretary/Overseer

5. Flooding

Strategy – Develop and maintain the flood prevention levees and maintain clear streams

Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
Maintain the existing levee system	Number of repairs	Chairperson /Secretary/Overseer
Inspect and remove debris and inappropriate dense vegetation where identified to enable clear flows	Number of projects to remove	Chairperson /Secretary/Overseer

6. Disaster Management

Strategy – to be able to act and repair areas as soon as practicable following a natural disaster

Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
Inspect and remove debris and conduct urgent repairs where required	Number of projects and time taken	Chairperson /Secretary/Overseer

