

R-CM 10: Community Engagement Through On-ground Action

Engage local communities to conduct small scale restoration activities around local creeks to increase involvement and provide a range of social and environmental benefits.

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>Community engagement and involvement in restoration activities will help bring about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong community stewardship and ownership of projects. ▪ Social and community benefits through involvement in on-ground activities. ▪ Increased community pride in their local area. ▪ Increased recreational and tourism opportunities. ▪ Increased habitat and connectivity, benefiting a range of species, including many threatened and iconic species. ▪ Improved water quality and waterway and riparian health. ▪ Positive biosecurity outcomes, through long-term management of weeds and removal of pest habitat. ▪ Potential for Traditional Owner involvement and benefits. 				
Justification	<p>Focussing on small scale activities in specific localities can make it easier for people to find a way to be involved in NRM, without requiring a huge commitment. Many communities have a strong connection to their local waterways and see them as special places. They may be used for a variety of recreational purposes and are often in high profile locations. These factors help create the impetus to protect and restore local creeks. There is potential for these areas to be used as demonstration sites, bringing cultural, social, environmental and economic benefits.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify and evaluate existing priorities for waterway restoration, particularly high-profile, small-scale sites which will provide multiple outcomes (social, cultural, environmental). 2) Investigate gaps in information, and use a collaborative approach to engage with the local community, as well as accessing scientific information, to identify further possible locations. 3) Develop collaborative stakeholder groups to review all information and prioritise potential sites. 4) Promote ideas for on-ground actions to generate community support and potential funding opportunities (eg. Local business sponsorship, grants). 5) Plan and implement a range of on-ground actions (eg. Removal of rubbish, weed control, tree planting, construction of walking / cycling tracks, signage, etc). 				

Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Small scale projects are often easier to plan, manage and resource. ✓ There are opportunities for this project to be implemented at multiple sites throughout the region, involving a broad range of community volunteers. ✓ The connection that people have to their local waterways can be the 'hook' to engage the community. ✗ There may be conflicting interests and beliefs regarding project outcomes and approaches. ✗ Careful planning will be required to ensure more strategic environmental outcomes are considered, and to avoid a piecemeal approach. 							
	Local Landscape Projects	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <th data-bbox="295 546 671 622">Local Landscape Project</th> <th data-bbox="671 546 1401 622">Location</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="295 622 671 698">SC3 Community Engagement Events</td> <td data-bbox="671 622 1401 698">Southern Cassowary Coast</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="295 698 671 775">HB11 Waterways Clean Up</td> <td data-bbox="671 698 1401 775">Lagoon Ck</td> </tr> </table>	Local Landscape Project	Location	SC3 Community Engagement Events	Southern Cassowary Coast	HB11 Waterways Clean Up	Lagoon Ck
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