

R-CM 18: Restoration of Coastal Systems

Undertake restoration of priority coastal and foreshore areas in the Wet Tropics to protect these important habitats and improve their ability to act as buffers.

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>The restoration of coastal systems will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved extent and health of coastal ecosystems and their associated wildlife. ▪ Improved buffering of coastal environments from extreme weather events. ▪ Opportunities for community engagement in restoration activities. ▪ Increased resilience of coastal environments and communities to the impacts of climate change.
Justification	<p>Coastal environments are highly complex systems, affected by competing interests and management considerations. Development pressure, as well as their natural fragility and vulnerability to impacts of climate change, create challenges in their management, but their enormous environmental, social and cultural values justify careful planning and management. Many ecological communities associated with coastal systems are threatened and under increasing pressure. In many areas, healthy coastal and foreshore environments provide the best form of defence against potential impacts of climate change.</p>
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review existing data and undertake detailed floodplain management planning, which considers fluvial geomorphology and groundwater influences and uses multiple data sets (eg. Lidar, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Mapping, aquifer layers). 2) Bring together the broad range of stakeholders required to ensure appropriate technical, social, cultural and environmental considerations are reflected in project planning and implementation. 3) Based on the above information, develop a framework to prioritise locations for restoration across the landscape. 4) Develop an appropriate plan of action to begin implementation of coastal restoration projects in priority locations.
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ With careful planning and management of foreshore environments to maintain their health, expensive hard engineering solutions may be avoided. ✓ The enormous environmental and social benefits provided by healthy coastal environments provides the impetus to enhance, manage and protect these areas. ✗ Coastal systems are naturally complex, requiring careful planning across a range of disciplines to ensure maximum returns on investment.

Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	RM22 Russell Floodplain Management Plan	Russell River floodplain
	RM23 Bramston Beach Restoration	Bramston Beach
	DG17 Douglas Foreshore Management	Douglas foreshore