

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Riparian health

Background

Riparian zones are the buffering environment between the land and neighbouring waterways. Stable riparian vegetation captures nutrient and sediment runoff from nearby urban areas, capturing it as it flows towards the water's edge. As urban development alongside waterways increases in Townsville, the riparian zone is at risk of vegetation removal, improper management techniques, and invasive weed establishment.

The Townsville region is a rapidly growing community. Identifying current best management practices for riparian zone maintenance (e.g., not mowing up to the water's edge) and ensuring key stakeholders within the region are aware of these practices, has potential to affect bank stability, fish habitat, and overall water quality.



KEY ACTIONS on project roadmap

- ✓ Develop realistic, achievable targets and demonstrate the identified best vegetation management practices to key stakeholders
- ✓ Revegetation project planned and delivered
- ✓ Monitor waterway sites where best practices are adopted





Outcomes

- Reduction in soil runoff and erosion on urban waterways
- Increased native vegetation in riparian zone
- Improved overall water quality in urban waterways
- Fish habitat restored
- Increase in the carbon storage capacity of Townsville's urban environment

Potential partners for project delivery

OzFish Unlimited, Townsville City Council (TCC), Ausfield Services, Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare Incorporated (CDTLI), NQ Dry Tropics (NQDT), Port of Townsville Limited (PoTL).

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Community values directly protected

- Terrestrial habitats
- Riparian zone
- Freshwater ecosystems
- Estuaries
- Mangroves
- Saltmarsh
- Marine water quality



