

Trees for schools

Background

Trees are significant sequestrators of atmospheric carbon, making them an extremely important tool for mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Townsville schools are eagerly seeking climate-conscious activities to engage with and educate their students and wider community about environmental sustainability.

Traditional Owner groups in the Townsville area are experienced and equipped to facilitate all or parts of this project, and opportunities for cultural interpretation are many.

There is also momentum building for increased mangrove planting and monitoring in the region. Townsville City Council has the ability to provide locally-sourced mangrove propagules, noting that mangroves must only be planted in areas identified as requiring restoration work (such as previously cleared forests).



KEY ACTIONS on project roadmap

- ✓ Identify areas that require tree rehabilitation, including using Department of Environment and Science mangrove data to identify target areas
- ✓ Identify and engage with local growers of trees
- ✓ Identify and engage with local community groups that specialise in tree planting
- ✓ Identify local schools and Traditional Owner groups with relevant WHS documentation
- ✓ Secure equipment and resources to access identified tree planting sites
- ✓ Deliver biodiversity training and support Traditional Owner delivery of cultural education workshops
- ✓ Support tree planting excursions, biodiversity audits, and monitoring program/site maintenance
- ✓ Analyse monitoring data to calculate carbon sequestration





Outcomes

- Increased biodiversity, habitat, and shade
- Increased carbon sequestration, resulting in reduction of CO2 emissions
- Increased stewardship for local environment
- Increased community awareness about cultural connections to Country
- Potential for increased awareness through greater mangrove focus in Townsville Dry Tropics Waterways Report Card

Potential partners for project delivery

Local schools (Belgian Gardens State School, Pimlico State High School, for example), Coastal Dry Tropics Landcare Incorporated (CDTLI), Townsville City Council (TCC), North Queensland Conservation Council (NQCC), Port of Townsville Limited (PoTL), Ausfield Services, MangroveWatch.

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Community values directly protected

- Air quality
- Terrestrial habitats
- Riparian zone
- Freshwater ecosystems
- Estuaries
- Mangroves



