



## Strategic Plan 2023-2027

### 1. Agency vision

To keep the Don River on its present course from 17 kilometres inland (upstream of Bootooloo) to the mouth at Queens Beach.

Management of the river to protect the people, State and Local Government infrastructure, and the extensive agricultural development on the floodplain, from flood damage and erosion associated with flooding from the Don River and Euri Creek.

Urban centres of importance are Bowen, Merinda and Queens Beach.

In maintaining this vision, the Don River Improvement Trust recognises that the Don River is the most active and unstable delta on the North Queensland Coast.

### 2. Agency purpose

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 Don River and Euri Creek for the people and industries in that area, and to protect State and local government transport and other infrastructure
- encourage and focus sand and gravel extraction from the bed of the river in areas to improve the effectiveness of the bank restoration and stabilization works
- maintain the river management works constructed by the Trust from Bootooloo (Potts Bank) Queens Beach included river breakouts such as the 1946 Mouth since 1980
- Undertake works of riverine improvement to help prevent changes in course of the river and address erosion and associated issues with economic, social and environmental benefit to the community.

### 3. Agency objectives and contribution to the government's objectives for the community

The Trust works with the Whitsunday Regional Council, the local horticultural industry, grower groups and others with like interests such as government departments and natural resource management groups concerned with protecting and enhancing the natural environment for future generations.

## 4. Performance indicators/strategies/risks

### a. Key challenges

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

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

### b. Institutional arrangements

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

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

### c. 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.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Who Responsible</b>
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
Erosion control works	Areas of stream where erosion has stopped	Chairman/Secretary/Overseer

### d. 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.

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Who Responsible</b>
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

## e. Flooding

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

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>Who Responsible</b>
Continue to construct rock walls along the banks of the River/ Maintain the existing rock walls	Length constructed/ 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

## f. Disaster management

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

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

## 5. Human rights

We respect, protect and promote human rights in everything we do.