



Rivers Improvement Trust

## Whitsunday River Improvement Trust Strategic Plan for 2023-2027

### Vision

To protect the township of Proserpine and surrounding area from damage associated with riverine flooding and to stabilise and protect the beds and banks of all streams within the Trust area.

To control erosion and prevent sediment movement into the Great Barrier Reef.

### Functions and roles

The Whitsunday River Improvement Trust is a statutory body that operates in accordance with the powers and responsibilities contained in the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and its regulations.

The role of the Trust is to provide flood mitigation protection to people and property within the Trust's area. Further the Trust will undertake remedial and preventative works to achieve the goals of the Trust.

### Working with others

The Trust maintains strong networks and memberships of key state, regional and local organisations to ensure that the Trust's programs and activities are well targeted, consistent and coordinated to achieve the best outcomes.

### Financial capacity

The Trust operates on funding from a number of sources, including a precept from Whitsunday Regional Council, subsidies from the Department of Natural Resources & Mines and access to grants from the State & Federal Government.

#### 1. Key challenges

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

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

## 2. Institutional arrangements

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

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

## 3. 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.

.Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
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

## 4. 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.

Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
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

## 5. Flooding

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

Actions	Performance Measures	Who Responsible
Maintain the existing levee system	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

## 6. 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

## 7. Human rights

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