



Strategic Plan 2025-2030

1. Vision

To be an active lead and partner with stakeholders and community to sustainably manage and improve riverine biological functions while also protecting people, livelihoods and property

2. Mission

To restore riverine process and in doing so build resilience to rivers, waterways and with the O'Connell and Proserpine catchments.

3. Purpose

The Whitsunday River Improvement Trust is statutory body and operates in accordance with the powers and responsibilities of the River Improvement Trust Act 1940 and associated regulations and operates under the powers and responsibilities of that legislation.

During the 2025-2030 period the Whitsunday River Improvement Trust we will work in partnership with investors, stakeholders and community to raise awareness of riverine management needs and aspiration and under projects to improve riverine health while protecting human functions and natural and commercial assets.

4. Objectives

The Whitsunday River Improvement Trust is committed to improving the functions and health of water ways and riparian lands within the catchment by;

- Partnering with like-minded individuals, organisations and groups to deliver riverine and water systems improvement.
- Manage invasive vegetation systematically.
- Promoting and implementing best practice remediation of riverine, riparian and water way systems to enhance biological function and protect valuable assets.
- Improve water quality and river systems functions.
- Develop and implement land management initiatives with community.
- Be active in exploring and implementing opportunities to improve the trusts reach and influence to achieve its purpose and objectives.

5. Strategic Priorities

- i. Ensure delivery toward positive environmental outcomes from the trust's actions.

- Improve water quality
 - Align WRIT actions and priorities to the Reef 2050 water quality Improvement plan and 2050 long terms sustainability plan and sub programs.
 - Align WRIT actions to the basin especially ecologically relevant water quality targets.
 - Provide data and information attributed to WRIT actions to the annual Reef and Regional Water Quality Report Card.
- Safeguard waterways and native habitats
 - Align WRIT actions to the Qld River Rehabilitation Management Guidelines and soil conservation guidelines for Qld and Qld Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

ii. Ensure effective and efficient delivery of trust activities.

- Governance
 - ensure the trusts policies and procedures are in line with regulatory and operational compliance requirements.
 - structure the trust committee to be effective and add value.
 - review and where required update the constitution of the trust .
 - work with the state department to;
 - identify powers that are essential to trusts effectively carry out their work.
 - assess options to amend RIT Act so that trusts can nominate new members to the Minster for appointment.
- Administration and Risk
 - Recognise and manage risk via the completion and annual update of a risk management framework, action plan and register.
- HR
 - Ensure all trust contract suppliers and service contracts are current and aligned to best practice employment policy and legislation.
 - Work with the state department and SCRIT to develop an education pack to support new trust members and contractors.
- Finances
 - Ensure clarity regarding financial goals and objectives
 - Develop and monitor annual budget and plans and cash flow while making sound strategic investments.
 - Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements
 - Carry out continuous monitoring and adaptation
 - Maintain effective cost control and expenses management
 - Maintain an up-to-date asset register
- Operations
 - Completion of an annual operational plan detailing major projects and intended outcomes.

- Prioritise water course location through stream bank stabilisation, restoration and riparian revegetation in priority sub-catchments.
 - Mitigate flood breakouts and inundation of urban and rural lands via an annual maintenance and stabilisation works program.
 - Ensure competitive tender process are in play for all engineering and construction projects.
- iii. Ensure the trust operations are accountable and transparent.
- Development of a consultation and communication strategy that can identify key stakeholders and outline when and how stakeholders will be consulted during the development of strategic and operational plans and individual projects.
 - Ensure tender process are consistent with Qld procurement Policy.
 - Project designs to consider range of options and solutions and be consistent with current best practice guidelines. For example,
 - The Qld River Rehabilitation Management Guidelines
 - The Soil Conservation Guidelines for Qld
 - Maintain an up-to-date web page and series of case studies on the SCRIT website aligned to WRIT operations.
- iv. Ensure the trust activities provide value to the community.
- Safeguard people, land and infrastructure from all aspects of riverine flooding within the legislative boundaries of the River Improvement Trust Act 1940 and associated regulations.

6. Whitsunday River Improvement Trust Stakeholders

- i. Local Land Holders
- ii. Whitsunday Regional Council
- iii. Canegrowers Proserpine
- iv. Wilmar Sugar
- v. State Council of River Improvement Trust
- vi. Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
- vii. Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers
- viii. Department of Main Roads and Transport
- ix. Department of Primary Industries
- x. Department of Natural Resources, Mines, Manufacturing and Regional Development
- xi. Reef Catchments Limited

Adopted April 2025