



TERRAIN

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Surveys at fishways: Strong results

Six fishways built between Tully and Crystal Creek near Paluma have together opened 100+ kilometres of creek and river systems – and recent surveys show they are super highways. More than 4,500 fish were caught and released during monitoring work at four rock ramp fishways, including juvenile barramundi, empire gudgeon, rainbow fish, tarpon and long-finned eels.

Eight of the 16 native species recorded at the fishways were diadromous - meaning they need to move between salt and freshwater to complete their lifecycles - and they're the species these fishways are targeting. The structures are a solution for barriers like weirs, pipes and culvert crossings.

[Read more](#)



Join in pilot testing for the Cassowary Credit Scheme

Thanks to those who've already expressed an interest... Would you also like to be part of our pilot testing for the Cassowary Credit Scheme? If you have a revegetation project coming up and an interest in learning more about this new market-based biodiversity credit scheme for the Wet Tropics region, we'd love to hear from you. With the Scheme approaching market launch, a testing and review phase with pilot projects is being undertaken. Here's what you could get out of participating in the pilot phase:

- Support and training to understand requirements to participate in the Cassowary Credit Scheme.
- Experience in planning and implementing a project through an environmental market mechanism.
- The opportunity to give feedback on the Scheme, to ensure it meets the needs of your organisation or situation.

- The opportunity to contribute to testing a new market mechanism that has potential to finance future environmental projects within the region.

Expressions of interest are invited. Please contact Terrain NRM on 4043 8000 for an application form. (This EOI process does not include grants for revegetation work.)

[More information about the Cassowary Credit Scheme](#)



"Three times the grass" at Glen Ruth Station

Hear from grazier Curtis Archer who has been working with us to boost productivity and reduce erosion on the family's 33,000ha cattle station through natural grazing practices. He's got "three times the volume of grass" since dividing large paddocks and introducing three-paddock stock rotation systems in the river

country and on the creek flats. It has led to more even grazing as well as pasture diversity while also reducing woody thickening and weeds.

This video is part of our Upper Herbert Sediment Reduction Project, funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

[Watch the video](#)



The 2024 magazine is out!

Island camping, waterfalls, tagging sharks, fishing for jungle perch, building fishways, growing cane and bananas with practices that reduce the runoff of topsoil, pesticide and fertiliser, reforesting riverbanks and more! The new edition of Reef & Rivers magazine celebrates our region's waterways and is full of inspirational stories about people doing great work to improve them. Keep an eye out for it in cafes, outdoor/fishing shops etc across the region. Or download it below. Terrain NRM creates the Reef and Rivers Magazine in conjunction with other Wet Tropics Waterways partners.

[Download the magazine](#)



Improving soil health with Michael Waring

Michael grows sugarcane on 139 hectares near Ingham and uses diverse cover crops as part of his soil management. He keeps the plant biomass growing for as long as possible before terminating it in preparation for the next cash crop. By doing this, he's improving soil health, reducing the need for weed control and saving time across the board. Another practice that's helping to boost soil health is minimum tillage when he's getting planting beds ready for the next crop. He's managed to reduce tillage passes from 10 to five, minimising soil compaction.

Michael is one of more than 20 farmers featured in the 'Tropical Soils - A Guide to Soil Health Handbook' – a practical guide to managing and improving soil health as a farmer or grazier in the tropical areas of northern Australia. This handbook was created by Terrain NRM, Reef Catchments and Gulf Savannah NRM with support from the Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership and Soil Land Food, and funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

[See the Soil Health Handbook here](#)



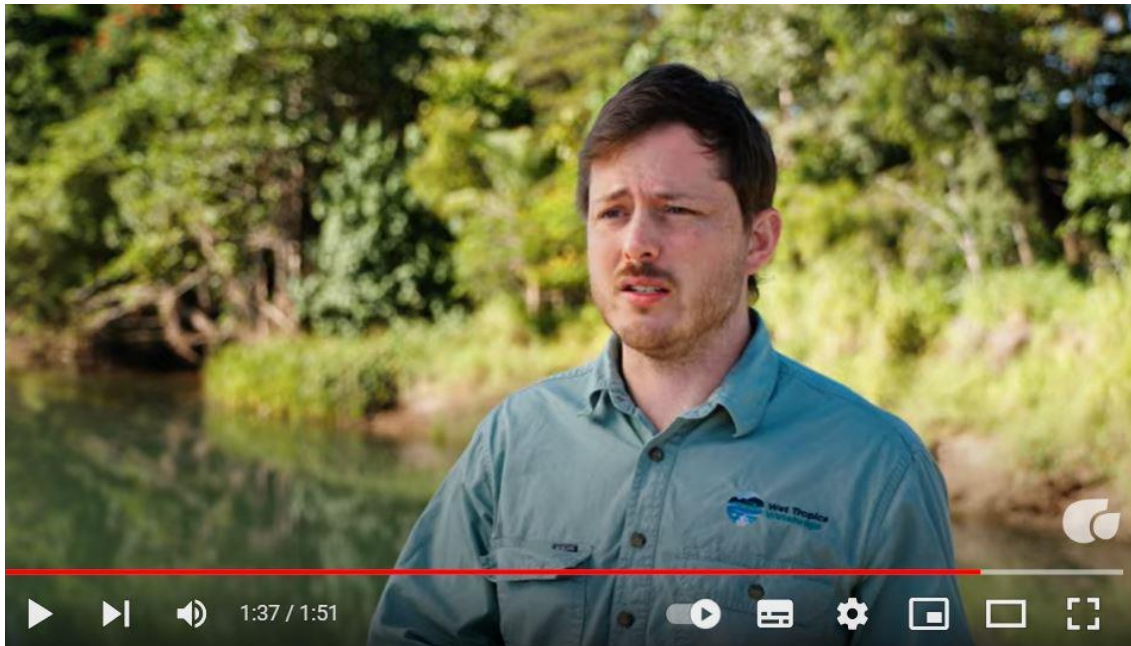
Teamwork: Saving endangered mahogany gliders

The final stage of this wildlife crossing for endangered mahogany gliders was recently completed in the Kennedy Valley, south of Tully, thanks to team work by conservationists, landholders, industry and innovators. The top strand of wire on this fence is now barbless wire, beside the glider poles. So gliders now have a much less treacherous path to travel between pockets of habitat. Kudos to Mahogany Glider Recovery Team members - to the local branch of Wildlife Queensland for supplying the barbless wire, to the landholder, industry and the local council, and to all volunteers who made this happen. It takes a team and in the week of National Threatened Species Day, [this video](#) shows the importance of all recovery teams across the Wet Tropics.



Do you know someone who should be nominated for a lifetime membership of Terrain NRM? Nominations are open! A lifetime membership recognises an individual's contribution to our organisation and to natural resource management in the Wet Tropics region. Terrain NRM is a community-based membership

organisation with representatives from more than 100 organisations across the Wet Tropics. Members are encouraged to contact us at people@terrain.org.au for a Lifetime Membership Nomination Form.



Why is water quality important?

From coral and fish to microscopic plants forming the base of food chains - they're all affected by the quality of water flowing down our creeks and rivers to the ocean. In this two-minute video, hear from James Donaldson of Terrain NRM and Wet Tropic Waterways on why our region is a hotspot for runoff and why there's so much work going into improving how we manage the land from agricultural to urban areas.

[Watch the video](#)



Events coming up

Workshop: Natural Intelligence Farming - Nurturing Microbiomes: Saturday 19 October. Tinaroo Lake Resort. A Wet Tropics Soilcare event. Learn from Di and Ian Haggerty and Jane Slattery. Di and Ian haven't used pesticides, chemical nitrogen, phosphorous or potassium fertilisers for almost 20 years. They focus on nitrogen-fixing plants, homemade biological brews and improving diversity of 'below ground stock' – bacteria, fungi, protozoa, worms and arthropods.

Hooked on Healthy Waterways: Calling fish enthusiasts! If you love fish, fishing or fish ecology, come to this jam-packed one-day forum in Cairns on Thursday 19 September with experts in the field including special guest Benny Glass (SCF Australia/Creek to Coast/The Mad Hueys). Wet Tropics Waterways has teamed up with OzFish Unlimited, the Queensland Government and James Cook University for this event on what it takes to improve waterways for our favourite species. And with tours of James Cook University's Eduquarium and Turtle Rehabilitation Facility, it's ideal for fish lovers 12 years and over.

Great Barrier Reef Clean Up events: 20 September to 31 October. Organise an event in your area or join an event. Reef Clean and Clean Up Australia need our help to clear marine debris from our beaches

and record what we find so the data can help to reduce marine debris at its source.

Restoring seagrass meadows: Volunteers are needed in Cairns and at Mourilyan Harbour. 30 September - 4 October. To register your interest, email hanna.shrubshall@jcu.edu.au



Grants for landholders, indigenous, community groups...

Landcare Australia Community Grants: \$5000 - \$20,000 grants to restore wildlife habitat, shelterbelts and fences, protect waterways, manage weeds and feral animals, work with Traditional Owners, host community workshops, buy plants and equipment etc. Apply by Friday 20 September.

Engaging Science Grants: Up to \$20,000 for STEM-based events or education and engagement projects (science, technology, engineering and maths) to increase public awareness of science, promote science literacy and STEM careers. Apply by 4pm 27 September.

NAB Foundation Community Grants: Up to \$25,000 grants for local projects that help communities withstand and recover from natural disasters, including Environment and Wildlife grants for restoration of damaged vegetation and habitat, and rehabilitation of injured wildlife. Apply by Monday 30 September.

Environmental grants: Up to \$2000 from the Tablelands Regional Council for regeneration projects, tree stocks for planting, climate mitigation and adaptation actions, capacity building, education and awareness regarding sustainability and environment management...

Discounted eco-loans for farmers, land managers and small to medium business owners: An Australian Government initiative for things like electric vehicles, rooftop solar, batteries, energy-efficient machinery and equipment including tractors, harvesters, earthmovers and cranes.

Strengthening Rural Communities – Prepare & Recover Program grants: Up to \$25,000 for a broad range of initiatives that focus on community-led resilience-building. Apply by Thursday 5 September to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal.

Queensland Feral Pig Initiative: Queensland Government funding for regionally-agreed cluster fencing arrangements, invasive plant and animal control, and capacity-building projects. Apply by 5pm on 13 September.

Wettenhall Environment Trust – Small Environmental Grants Scheme: \$2000 to \$15,000 grants to support grass roots organisations, individuals and academics for projects making a positive difference to the biodiversity conservation in land, sea or air, rural or urban areas.

Purves Environmental Fund: Expressions of interest are invited for projects that tackle degradation of wilderness, over exploitation of natural resources and/or pollution.

Farm Management Grants Scheme: A 50% rebate on the cost of eligible professional advice, up to a maximum of \$2500, to produce a Farm Business Resilience Plan. A Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority initiative.



Nominate for the Bob Hawke Landcare Award

This national award recognises an individual, group or organisation involved in championing landcare and inspiring others to take action on their property or in their community. It acknowledges a remarkable commitment to caring for the land with improved sustainable land management practices, and efforts to share knowledge with others. The award includes a \$30,000 grant package for further development of knowledge and skills in sustainable land management. This is an Australian Government and Landcare Australia initiative. Nominations close on Saturday 31 December.

[Find out more](#)

Have your say...

[Queensland's Biodiversity Strategy - Proposed Performance Framework:](#) The Biodiversity Strategy outlines the Queensland Government's commitment to protecting and conserving biodiversity values. Have your say on proposed targets and actions by Wednesday 11 September.

[On ways to make it easier and faster to connect rooftop solar, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, battery storage etc. to power grids.](#)

[Review of the Reef Water Quality 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan:](#) Share your experiences and views about how to improve local water quality and the health of our Reef catchment, including new ideas on how Reef catchments can be managed in the future to support a healthy Reef. Consultation closes at 5pm, 30 September.

[On Nature Repair Market legislative rules](#) being developed by the Australian Government to incentivise land management practices that will deliver improved biodiversity outcomes. Take the survey by 30 September.

Tell us what you think: Let us know what you think of our newsletters, and if there is anything else that you'd like to see included in them... Email info@terrain.org.au

Keep in touch



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