

Tide to Table – Burnett Mary Region

2009-2010 On-ground Works

This round of Tide to Table funds five specific on-ground works projects.



- Baldwin Swamp Fishway – removing barriers to fish in Bundaberg Creek,
- Coonarr Wetland Protection – preventing degradation to estuarine wetlands at Coonarr Beach,
- Shell Midden Protection – Walkers Point,
- Fish Habitat Remediation – remediating barriers to fish in Eli Creek, and
- Foreshore Habitat Rehabilitation – Bargara Beach.

Baldwin Swamp Fishway

OceanWatch Australia is working in partnership with Queensland Primary Industries & Fisheries and Bundaberg Regional Council to remediate barriers to fish passage from Bundaberg Creek into Baldwin Swamp. This reach of Bundaberg Creek is important, providing significant brackish nursery habitat for fish and crustaceans within the highly modified Burnett River estuary. A significant barrier to fish passage through this system is the weir at Baldwin Swamp. It causes a connectivity issue between the fresh and brackish habitat for fish species like Mangrove Jack, Mullet, and Barramundi. Installation of a rock pool fish ladder will restore connectivity between 1.6 km brackish habitat to over 3kms of freshwater habitat.

Queensland Primary Industries & Fisheries are in the process of designing the ladder in consultation with Bundaberg Regional Council. Construction will be implemented in partnership by QPIF and Bundaberg Regional Council in 2010.

Coonarr Wetland Protection

This project aims to ameliorate impacts on critical fish nursery habitat from excessive and unmanaged vehicular use.



Specific threats to the estuarine wetlands at Coonarr Beach include; destruction and removal of wetland vegetation by vehicles, erosion and damage to wetlands and dunes from vehicles, weed invasion as a result of disturbance to and loss of vegetation cover, pollution from rubbish dumping and litter, and incidental interference with nesting turtles and hatchlings during nesting/hatching season by illegal vehicular use on Coonarr Beach.

The project is being implemented in partnership with Bundaberg Regional Council, funding the installation of bollards along Coonarr Beach Road to prevent vehicles from driving on wetland areas behind Coonarr Beach. A monitoring program has been established to keep track of the recovery of the wetland vegetation, and assist in decision making for the future management of this site. The project has been an effective platform for bringing together stakeholders from fisheries, 4WD'ing clubs, Landcare groups, and Queensland Parks & Wildlife to strategise effective means of managing vehicular access on Coonarr Beach, and in other priority fish habitat areas. These works are expected to be completed in 2009.

Rehabilitation works in wetland area to accelerate recovery of mangroves will occur throughout 2010.

Shell Midden Protection



OceanWatch Australia is working closely with Bundaberg Regional Council, Traditional Owners and Indigenous representatives from Walkers Point to implement this important cultural heritage project.

*Severely eroded bank where campers and fishers access river is impacting upon shell midden.
Michelle Haase, September 2009.*

Under the mentorship of respected Elders and Traditional Owners, the Queensland Government's Green Army are installing erosion control measures and access ways to protect culturally significant shell middens from further degradation.

Other works will include an Archaeological survey by Archaeo, protection of cultural heritage sites with fencing, construction of interpretive hut for interpretation material, rubbish removal, community education activities, and development of interpretative material.

Fish Habitat Remediation

Fraser Coast Regional Council and OceanWatch Australia are implementing this project at Eli Creek and the Mary River to remediate barriers to fish passage. This project is funding the installation of trial Infrastructure Protection Devices to reduce gross pollutant discharge that is impacting on fish habitats. In addition to this it will identify water quality threats to fish populations, remove weeds and rubbish, and identify suitable engineering solutions to improve structural habitat within the constructed lake system at Eli Creek, in Hervey Bay.

Additionally it will improve knowledge of fish populations in the artificial lakes and Eli Creek system. Progress has already commenced on this project with Fraser Coast 4WD Club undertaking a huge clean up popular fishing sites on Eli Creek and the Mary River.

Weighing in at 5.3 tonnes, the rubbish collected from both sites included beer bottles, plastic bags, clothing, fishing line, rope, wire and an assortment of household rubbish. There were a number of larger items such as car tyres and old pieces of furniture, such as bed bases, armchairs, rusted tanks, trailers and dumped vehicles.

Foreshore Habitat Rehabilitation



This project in Bargara is funded by the Ergon Energy Envirofund. It will kick-start much needed environmental weed removal and revegetation on the foreshore of the beach at Bargara, providing opportunities for hands on learning in plant and weed identification, control measures and revegetation techniques. This program will improve the ecological health and stability of the dune system, and reduce adverse impacts of environmental weeds on local wildlife.