

# GULLY REPAIR | Ecosystem Repair Project

**LANDHOLDER:** DARYL WATSON, KOUMALA

**WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS SITE?** A major gully erosion issue on a cane farm in the Rocky Dam Creek catchment was repaired by the landholder with a contribution from the Plane Creek System Repair Project. Elsewhere on the property, runoff is being managed by a system of sediment detention basins and an enhanced wetland feature. Site revegetation has also begun on a creek bank with native plant species.

**WHO'S INVOLVED?** This project has been initiated and funded by the landholder. It is coordinated on-ground by Reef Catchments, through co-funding from the Australian Government's Plane Creek System Repair project.



Australian Government



**PROJECT:** GULLY REPAIR: DARYL WATSON, ROCKY DAM CREEK ROAD, KOUMALA

**PROJECT GOALS:** To halt further erosion by stopping the gully moving laterally into the cane paddocks, slow water flow through the farm system, detain nutrient and pesticide rich "first flush" water and enhance the native riparian vegetation corridor.

**CURRENT ACTIVITY:** The gully was lined with geofabric and rockered with various sizes of rocks to allow subsurface water flow, but to slow it down. At the end of the rock chute, water flows into one of three sediment detention basins currently being constructed, and then into a wetland feature before reaching a tributary of Rocky Dam Creek. Nearby on the creek, revegetation of the pre-clearing riparian vegetation has been implemented.

**STATUS:** In 2014 the gully repair was completed, which has halted the erosion of the adjacent cane paddocks during big flows. The revegetation of one section of the creek was also finished. One of the sediment detention basins has been completed, with two more to be finished over the next two months.

**MOVING FORWARD:** The completion of the sediment detention basins and the enhancement of the wetland with native wetland plants will be carried out this financial year. Daryl Watson plans to expand his cane-growing area by levelling more land on the other side of the creek, and hopes to apply for further funding in the future for assistance with runoff management and water treatment systems.

**BELOW:** Reef Catchments NRM region

