

LAGOONS CREEK REHABILITATION | Ecosystem Repair Project

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS SITE? Increased urban development and historic agricultural practices have resulted in numerous modified waterway environments within the Mackay Whitsundays regions. The Lagoons Creek is a tributary of the lower Pioneer River and is one such waterway that has been channelized, cleared and undergone significant geomorphic change. The creek now presents a fragmented riparian corridor abundant in riparian weed species and deplete of instream structure. The Lagoons Creek Rehabilitation project is a major project in conjunction with the Mackay Regional Council that will increase the extent of native habitat in fragmented landscapes, connect remnant vegetation and ensure native vegetation with high conservation value is protected, managed and enhanced.

WHO'S INVOLVED? This project is a joint initiative between Reef Catchments and the Mackay Regional Council, with co-funding through the Australian Government Urban System Repair project.



PROJECT:

LAGOONS CREEK REHABILITATION, LOWER LAGOONS CREEK, MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS, MACKAY



PROJECT GOALS:

Extent of native habitats in fragmented landscapes is expanded; connection between remnant vegetation is improved, existing high conservation value vegetation is protected and enhanced. Activities include: the installation of a rip-rap rock wall, a rock lined open channel drain and fishways at the southern end of the Mackay Botanic Garden; and the installation of additional fish rock ramps and sediment ponds at the interface between the creek, the future Botanic Garden extension and a proposed subdivision.



CURRENT ACTIVITY:

Collaboration with Mackay Regional Council to design and construct the rip-rap rock wall, rock lined open channel drain and fish rock ramp. Indigenous species have been introduced into the corridor and ongoing weed control will assist in their establishment.



STATUS:

Stage 1 completion has seen the construction of a high priority fishway in a high priority urban subcatchment, with good evidence of fish migration in the early stages. This project showcases a highly successful partnership between Reef Catchments, Mackay Regional Council and the wider local community.



MOVING FORWARD:

Stage 2-4 of this project will involve the installation of additional fish rock ramps and sediment ponds. Works are scheduled to occur in the following months to be completed by June 2016. Rehabilitation (weed control and revegetation) of the riparian corridor will occur with each stage and Large Woody Habitat (instream habitat) will be placed within the channel at strategic locations.

BELOW: Reef Catchments NRM region

