



## ***Increasing community engagement in Townsville coastal catchments for Biodiversity***

### **How is the project funded?**

Townsville City Council (TCC), through Creek to Coral, successfully applied for funding through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country (CfoC) 2010-11 Business Plan open call. TCC contributes to the project with a range of in kind support mostly in the form of staff time including Integrated Sustainability Services natural resource managers, the greening and waterways team, administrative assistance, coordination of project activities, training and capacity building events, use of equipment and provision of materials e.g. mulch and trees.

### **What is the long-term aim of the project?**

Coastal habitats and aquatic ecosystems of the Townsville coastal plains that are healthier and more robust and better able to withstand the impacts of climate change.

### **What are the environmental objectives of the project?**

- Protect and enhance the environmental values of waters and native habitats;
- Address coastal catchment management issues; and
- Contribute to an increase in native vegetation and habitat being sustainably managed.

### **How long will the project run for?**

The project will finish in June 2012 unless the latest CfoC application (31 May 2011) to extend the project is successful and then it would continue until June 2013.

### **What area does the project cover?**

The coastal plains of the Townsville region (Crystal Creek to the Haughton River) and Magnetic Island (Townsville City local government area).

### **Is there potential to expand the extent of the project?**

The coverage of the project could be extended if there were significant priority habitat areas outside the Townsville local government area that could be protected in partnership with community and NRM organisations.

### **How will the project be delivered?**

The principle delivery mechanism will be the provision of funding to community groups and organisations to undertake natural resource management works or activities that will lead to an increased capacity to be involved in natural resource management.

### **Does a group have to be incorporated?**

No. If community members want to be part of an 'action group' but aren't incorporated then a project plan will be developed by Creek to Coral in conjunction with the group and a budget estimated for the project. TCC will then administer the project funds for the group.

### **What about an incorporated group?**

If a group or organisation is incorporated and wants to manage the funds for a project then a funding agreement will be prepared between TCC and the group/organisation and the group/organisation will be responsible for the expenditure in line with the agreement. As with unincorporated groups TCC can administer the funds if the group doesn't want to be responsible for that task.

**What can we do if we aren't part of a group?**

If you want to be involved in some way let us know and we can put you on the contact list. We will contact you about planned activities and you can decide if you want to be involved.

**What sort of projects would be eligible for funding?**

Anything that contributes to the protection and/or management of native habitat in the project area (especially threatened ecological communities and habitat of nationally threatened species) is eligible including; rehabilitation of natural areas, revegetation works, managing natural regeneration, weed control (especially weeds of national significance - WONS), capacity building activities, controlling access to sensitive areas and community education activities. The best way to find out about the eligibility of an activity is to ask us.

**Do projects have to be new projects?**

No. Building on the work of existing projects is a valid activity.

**Are private landholders eligible to receive funding?**

If a project involves the protection of threatened ecological communities and/or habitat of nationally threatened species then the private landholders could receive funding. Private landholders would be encouraged to band together and adopt a catchment management approach to habitat protection as part of a property planning exercise.

**How much funding can we ask for?**

We will be providing funding of up to \$80,000 for a single project. If however a project will provide exceptional value in terms of achieving environmental protection and biodiversity outcomes then we will give it serious consideration.

**Who should I contact to register my interest in the project?**

Chris Manning  
Coordinator Strategic Sustainability Programs  
Email [chris.manning@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:chris.manning@townsville.qld.gov.au)

or

Jason Lange  
Water Cycle (Creek to Coral) Team Leader  
Email [jason.lange@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:jason.lange@townsville.qld.gov.au)

**What is Creek to Coral?**

Creek to Coral is Townsville's healthy waters initiative and is based on a catchment management approach to our natural resources.

The Creek to Coral concept is simple and all encompassing whereby creek applies to the top of the catchment and relates to freshwater and extends all the way through to more estuarine waterways which ultimately lead to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), hence the choice of the word coral.

Creek to Coral's vision is to achieve, sustain and promote the benefits of healthy catchments and fresh and marine water ecosystems. Creek to Coral is committed to the encouragement, education and involvement of community in integrated catchment and coastal zone management.

# [www.creektocoral.org](http://www.creektocoral.org)