

## INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY SERVICES

Creek to Coral – Townsville's Healthy Waters Initiative



### The Project

Creek to Coral (Townsville City Council) successfully applied for funding through the Caring for our Country (CfoC) 2010-11 Business Plan open call in 2010 for the “**Increasing community engagement in Townsville coastal catchments for Biodiversity**” project.

The longer term outcome of the project is “*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.*”

The project is designed to involve individuals, neighbourhood groups and community groups in natural resource management activities to assist in the protection of priority habitat areas in the coastal plains of the Townsville region (Crystal Creek to the Haughton River). There is potential to extend the coverage of the project to priority areas along the coast to Bowen.

The aim is for Townsville City Council, NQ Dry Tropics and other natural resource management organisations to work in partnership with the community on coastal, riparian and other priority habitat management, restoration and conservation to:

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

The project commenced January 2011 and is scheduled to conclude in June 2012.

### Project Delivery

The principle delivery mechanism will be the provision of funding to community groups and organisations to undertake the projects identified during the prioritisation and planning phase in partnership with interested community groups. A list of priority sites/projects will be released in June/July 2011 for community groups, neighbourhood groups and other non-government organisations to express their interest in being involved in undertaking the projects.

Projects can be new initiatives, an expansion or extension of existing efforts or the revitalisation of existing project ideas. We are encouraging groups to work together on combined projects (two or more in conjunction) in order to maximise outcomes achieved within available funding and timeframes. We will assist with group coordination after initial expressions of interest are received.

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Project delivery will involve a number of interrelated activities including:

- Collation of maps and reports associated with vegetation, habitat, and ecological communities and associated environmental values [[happening now](#)].
- Discussions with community group and other participants to define the priorities and scope for potential projects [[this information sheet is the first stage](#)].
- Priority sites identified through desktop survey and in consultation with community groups.
- Site assessment to determine habitat condition and management actions required [[April/June 2011](#)].
- Rating and ranking of sites into those requiring protection, remediation or both [[June 2011](#)].
- Development of concept plans for priority sites [[May/June 2011](#)]

### Project linkages and integration

Discussions have been held with NQ Dry Tropics to ensure the Creek to Coral CfoC project is aligned with NQ Dry Tropics programs and projects and to make sure we don't overwhelm our other major project partner, our community volunteers. A Planning and Coordination Group (PACG) is being formed to ensure integration between the Creek to Coral CfoC project with NQ Dry Tropics activities, and to provide coordinated communications about combined and overlapping activities.

### Caring for our Country Business Plan 2011-12

The 2011-2012 Caring for our Country Business Plan has been released and 'Open Call' applications for funding are due by 5pm on 30 May 2011. Open call funding ranges in value from \$20,000 to \$1 million and is available to meet targets for the six national priority areas.

In addition the Australian Government anticipates that the CfoC Community Action Grants round will open for applications around May 2011 for grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000 (GST exclusive) for activities that will contribute to Caring for our Country national priorities.

For more information on Caring for our Country including the national priorities areas and targets go to: [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au)

What does this mean for community groups and others that have an interest in obtaining funding for their projects? The options are:

- Apply for CfoC funding through the open call (projects over \$20,000) by 30 May 2011;
- Apply for CfoC funding through the Community Action Grants round (projects between \$5,000 and \$20,000) by the due date (yet to be announced); and/or
- Work with Creek to Coral to deliver your project (projects >\$2,000 and <\$80,000).

One of the main features of the Creek to Coral project is to remove the need for community groups to apply to CfoC for funds to undertake projects. We have done the 'hard' work to get the funds for the Townsville region and help reduce the administrative burden on our community members. So take advantage of this opportunity to support your natural resource management activities and leave (most of) the paperwork to us. Yes there will still be some paperwork but nowhere near as much as through the CfoC process and no long-winded applications will be required.

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## Getting Involved

If you or your group/organisation would like to be involved in the Creek to Coral CfoC project, please send an initial expression of interest to:

Chris Manning  
Coordinator Strategic Sustainability Programs  
Integrated Sustainability Services  
Townsville City Council  
103 Walker Street  
Townsville QLD 4810

Or email [chris.manning@townsville.qld.gov.au](mailto:chris.manning@townsville.qld.gov.au).

Please include the following information\* so we can contact you and advise you about future activities and to help with getting groups together:

- Name and contact details (email and/or phone);
- Location and organisation or group (if any) [**doesn't have to be incorporated or a formal group**];
- Brief description of the areas or sites you/your group is interested in (either existing or proposed);
- Brief description of the type of NRM activity you/your group is interested in.

The next stage will involve working with community members and groups to identify and prioritise information and develop actual projects and activities that you can be involved in.

We will have a planning workshop later in May to:

- Provide more information about the project;
- Present preliminary information including maps and potential project sites; and
- Get your ideas on projects and training you would like to be involved in.

For any further queries please contact Townsville City Council's Integrated Sustainability Services on 4727 9000.

### \*Note

You are providing personal information, which will be used for the purpose of delivering services and carrying out council business. Your personal information is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* and will be accessed by persons who have been authorised to do so. Your information will not be given to any other person or agency unless you have given us permission or the disclosure is required by law.