

# Fact sheet

## Marine Estate Management Strategy Riparian Restoration Project



**Are you a landholder that is interested in improving the water quality of creeks, streams, gullies and rivers on or adjacent to your land? Are you concerned about the amount of soil and sediment being lost from your property because of surface runoff or the quality of your water being impacted by your stock?**

If you answer yes to these questions, you're encouraged to consider submitting an expression of interest for the North Coast Local Land Services' Riparian Restoration Project.

### What is the Riparian Restoration Project?

The Riparian Restoration Project is part of the bigger Marine Estate Management Strategy (MEMS) initiative focusing on improving water quality and reducing litter like nutrients and sediment loads entering waterways.

The project will primarily work with macadamia growers and graziers to rehabilitate the riparian areas on their properties to mitigate against:

- the amount of sediment and nutrients entering the

waterways due to surface runoff

- the trampling of vegetation, breakdown of soil structure, and contamination of the water that uncontrolled access of stock can lead to.

Landholders with creek frontage in the waterways listed below are eligible, noting priority will be given to macadamia growers and graziers:

- Wilsons River
- Pearces Creek

- Emerald Creek
- Bennys Creek
- Coopers Creek
- Maquires Creek
- Houghlahans Creek
- Willowbank Creek
- Duck Creek
- Branch Creek
- Emigrant Creek.

## How will works be undertaken?

The project works collaboratively with landholders to rehabilitate and enhance the riparian zone on the property. This involves the development and implementation of a site action plan, which is developed by an environmental contractor in consultation and liaison with the landholder.

The site action plan provides practical strategies, actions and a works schedule to restore, to the best possible extent, the structure, function, integrity and dynamics of native vegetation at the project site and limit diffuse pollutants entering the riparian zone from surface runoff.

Works include:

- strategic and comprehensive weed management
- riparian rehabilitation and revegetation including intercept plantings to filter runoff
- stock management – installation of alternative water points and stock exclusion fencing
- maintenance.

All works are funded by North Coast Local Land Services and conducted by a qualified bush regeneration company that specialises in natural resource management in the Northern Rivers areas. Maintenance of the project site is carried out by the contractor for a period of two years and then handed back to the landholder to manage.

## What are the benefits to the landholder?

The outcome of the ecological restoration component of this riparian zone project is to provide ecosystem services that:

- limit diffuse pollutants entering the riparian zone from surface run-off and over time provide increased instream carbon loads to promote natural denitrification processes
- create habitat for native biota, including threatened entities (species and ecosystems)
- increased capacity of landholders' natural resource management.

This provides a range of benefits to the landholder including:

- reduced erosion by slowing flow
- vegetation stabilizes banks and limits land lost in flood events
- improved water quality



- increased biodiversity of flora and fauna
- creates functional wildlife corridors
- improved amenity and visual appeal
- improves cattle health
- reduces weed load on the property.

## What are landholders' responsibilities?

Under this project, landholders will enter into a Land Management Deed for a period of 5 years. The Land Management Deed outlines the responsibilities of the North Coast Local Land Services, environmental contractor and landholder. Landholder responsibilities include:

- landholder provides access to their property to North Coast Local Land Services and its contractors
- landholder carries out long-term maintenance and monitoring of project works
- landholder agrees to the design of the works
- landholder allows North Coast Local Land Services to use project outcomes for promotional purposes including but not limited to media and hosting field days.

## How can landholders apply?

Expressions of interest can be lodged online via [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/mems](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/mems)

Funding will be offered on a competitive basis, with projects that are within the identified target river reaches prioritised.

For further information contact Genevieve Maley, Land Services Officer via [mems@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mems@lls.nsw.gov.au) or 0428 394 948.



This project is part of the NSW Government funded Marine Estate Management Strategy which aims to increase water quality and improve the natural environment.