

Legacies: Sustainable Farming for the Future

WetlandCare Australia's Coastal 20 project has delivered long-term outcomes for farming sustainability, food security and biodiversity maintenance, including:

- Innovative solutions that will continue to improve wetland health and the productivity of agricultural lands through soil conservation, hydrological restoration and water improved;
- Established on-farm infrastructure enabling improved grazing management with ongoing benefits for stock health and biodiversity;
- Strategic weed and pest control to reduce current and future threats to both ecosystem services and farm assets; and
- Continuing to provide support for farmers to improve their knowledge, skills and capacity in sustainable land management.



Thank you to all our Partners and Supporters

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Sustainable Farm Practices



Australia's east coast supports a diverse and extensive agricultural industry. Sustainable management of farmland is vital to maintain the long-term health of coastal catchments and wetlands. Healthy wetlands on farms can bolster productivity, regulate water flows and quality, improve soil health, increase aesthetic and recreational values and provide habitat for biodiversity. Partnerships between farmers and natural resource management groups can provide mutually beneficial outcomes for environmental sustainability, productivity and food security.



Coastal 20 Strategies for Sustainable Farm Management

The Coastal 20 project engaged farmers in opportunities for sustainable farm management and improved knowledge, skills and capacity. Strategic management actions to support the biodiversity, productivity and soil and water health of on-farm and off-farm environments included:

- Providing information, advice and capacity to farmers to manage threats to biodiversity and productivity including weeds and pest animals;
- Supporting on-farm actions to improve natural assets including soil health and water quality for environmental and agricultural results;
- Working with farmers to deliver strategic biodiversity conservation projects on their land for landscape scale natural resource management; and
- Developing effective partnerships within agricultural and natural resource management industries and the community.

Case Study 1: Soil for Productivity, Wetlands for Biodiversity

WetlandCare Australia partnered with a local farmer and Tweed Shire Council for on-farm soil conservation and wetland restoration on the Cudgen Plateau in Northern NSW, implementing an opportunity to create a win-win situation for both the farmer and the environment. Outcomes for productivity and biodiversity included:

- Weed control and riparian revegetation of **1 ha** to restore habitat for local and migratory fauna;
- Over **965 meters** of stream bank planting and hydrological restoration for topsoil conservation and recovery;
- Reduced soil erosion and sediment run-off to improve downstream water quality and aquatic habitat; and
- Demonstrated and promoted mutual benefits of sustainable farm management to engage farmers and develop industry partnerships.



Coastal 20 Productive, Sustainable Farms Outcomes

ACHIEVED

Assisted **25 farmers** to reduce soil erosion and acid sulphate soils



ACHIEVED

Increased the knowledge, skills and capacity of **216 farmers** in natural resource management



ACHIEVED

Worked with **16 farmers** to address threats to over **2732 ha** of high ecological value aquatic ecosystems



ACHIEVED

Improved weed and pest management and stock management on over **2820 ha** of horticultural and grazing land



ACHIEVED

Engaged **80 farmers** to adopt activities including bush regeneration, stock management and revegetation on over **2820 ha**

Case Study 2: Protecting Biodiversity, Wetlands and Cattle

WetlandCare Australia partnered with a local grazier and the Burnett Mary Regional Group to protect estuarine and freshwater wetlands and threatened and migratory species in Bustard Bay near Gladstone in Queensland. Outcomes included:

- Wildlife-friendly fencing to protect over **775 ha** of wetland habitat and **15 km** of streambank;
- Fencing infrastructure for improved stock health and grazing management;
- Strategic control of weeds and feral animals for improved biodiversity and pasture quality;
- Protection of Water Mouse breeding sites and migratory shorebird habitat; and
- Increased landholder capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming.

