

Legacies: Protecting Coastal Ecosystems for the Future

WetlandCare Australia's Coastal 20 project has delivered long-term outcomes to safeguard and restore significant coastal wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide for generations to come, including:

- Addressing threats to the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef and the Moreton Bay Ramsar Site to preserve their environmental, social and economic values into the future;
- Restoring the health, connectivity and water quality of key aquatic habitats to sustain the important fish nursery and other services they provide;
- Improving the condition and resilience of coastal wetland communities in the face of ongoing pressures of urban development and climate change; and
- Continued support for land managers and community groups in coastal wetland management.



Coastal Environments and Critical Aquatic Habitats



Australia's east coast supports diverse estuarine and freshwater wetlands which support ecosystem functions and environmental assets vital to Australia's productivity, lifestyle and economy. Coastal wetlands face pressures such as habitat loss and poor water quality. Careful coastal management is needed to retain ecological, cultural and economic values for future generations.



Thank you to all our Partners and Supporters

For more information contact WetlandCare Australia:
02 6681 6169
ballina@wetlandcare.com.au
www.wetlandcare.com.au

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Coastal 20 Strategies to Protect Coastal Wetlands

The Coastal 20 project restored valuable aquatic environments and significant coastal wetlands. Strategic management actions to maintain and improve habitat quality and aquatic health included:

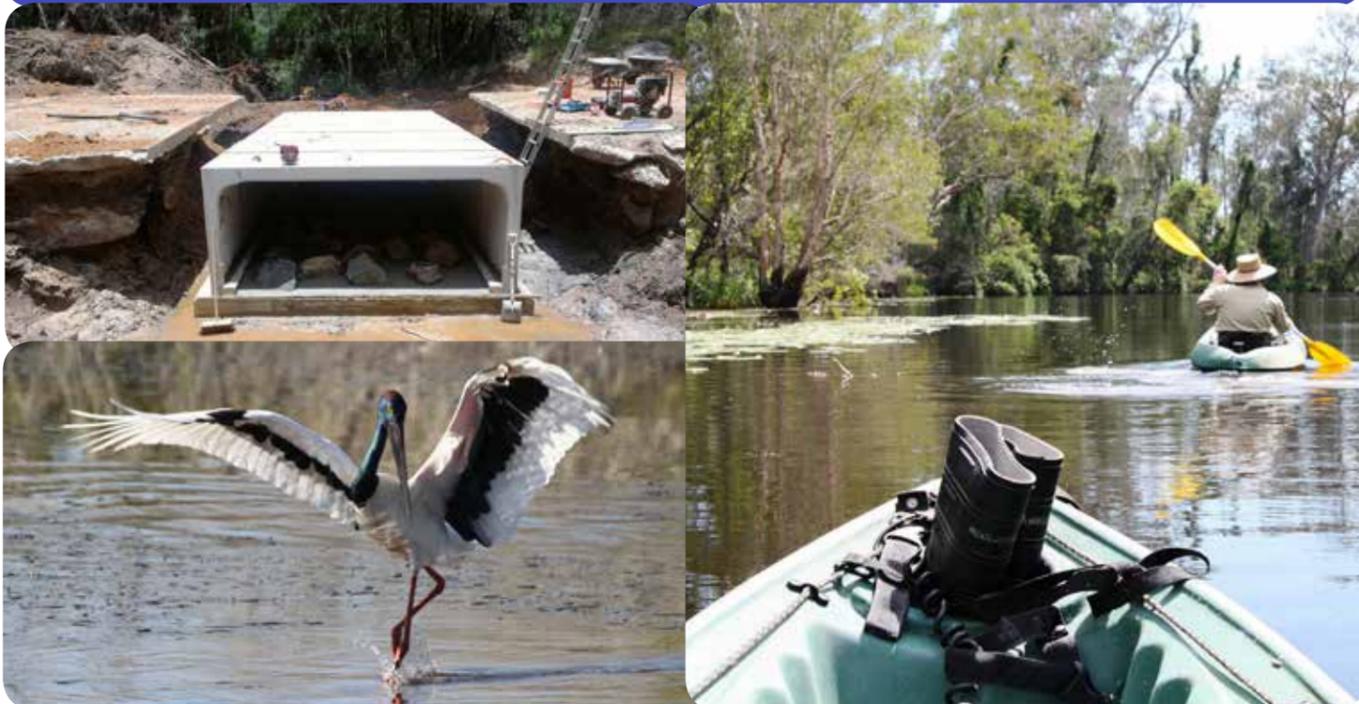
- Restoring and protecting the habitat values and ecological character of nationally and internationally significant wetlands;
- Improving the extent and condition of aquatic and wetland habitat in key coastal waterways including revegetation and strategic weed and pest control;
- Protecting and rehabilitating coastal wetlands to improve water quality and prevent erosion and run-off to key aquatic and marine habitats and coastal hotspots; and
- Engaging the community and build land manager capacity to improve coastal aquatic environments.



Case Study 1: Restoring aquatic connectivity

Coastal waterways provide nursery habitat for ecologically, commercially and recreationally important fish species. Aquatic connectivity is vital for species which migrate between marine, estuarine and freshwater habitats during their life cycle. WetlandCare Australia worked with local and state agencies and urban landholders to restore aquatic connectivity. Outcomes included:

- Installed fish-friendly culverts to open **26.5 km** of fish passage in Splitters Creek linking to the Great Barrier Reef and the Great Sandy Strait Ramsar site; and
- Floodgate remediation to re-connect over **2 km** of freshwater and estuarine fish passage in the Brunswick River catchment.



Coastal 20 Coastal Wetland Restoration Outcomes

ACHIEVED

Addressed threats to the **World Heritage Great Barrier Reef** and **Moreton Bay Ramsar site**



ACHIEVED

Engaged with **20 land managers** and **58 community groups** to address threats to over **3278 ha** of high ecological value aquatic ecosystems



ACHIEVED

Restored coastal habitat through **20 ha** of revegetation, over **4750 ha** of remnant vegetation rehabilitation and over **80 km** of streambank protection



ACHIEVED

Worked with **25 farmers** to reduce erosion and improve water quality in coastal aquatic habitats



Case Study 2: Protecting the ecological character of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site

Moreton Bay supports diverse marine plants including seven seagrass species which act as fish nurseries and provide habitat for dugong and marine turtles. WetlandCare Australia improved aquatic marine habitat in Moreton Bay through participating in the Seagrass Friendly Moorings program with the following outcomes:

- Installed **6 seagrass friendly moorings** to restore **8400 square meters** in significant aquatic habitat areas within Moreton Bay; and
- Partnered with SEQ Catchments, OceanWatch Australia, Queensland Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Maritime Safety Queensland, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the local boating community.

