

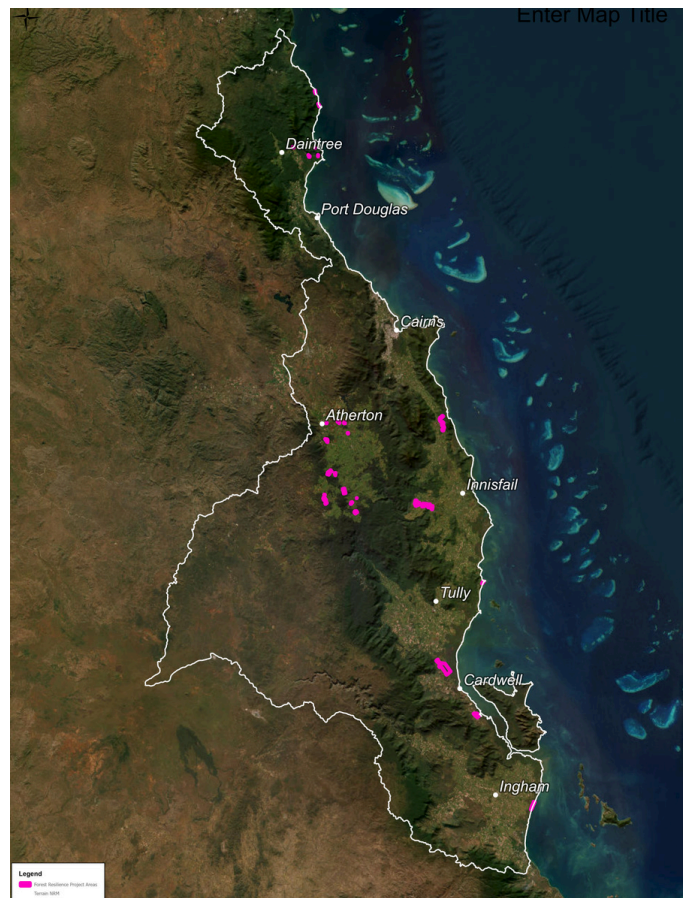
FOREST RESILIENCE & BEYOND:

Restoring the Eastern Forests of Far North Queensland in the Wet Tropics region

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED

- Thanks to the Australian Government, over the past year, the Forest Resilience Project has helped protect and restore some of Far North Queensland's most vulnerable forest ecosystems. By taking a landscape-scale approach, rather than isolated species recovery, this project is benefiting multiple threatened species and strengthening the resilience of key ecosystems and the broader environment.
- What's been accomplished so far:
- 20 on-ground restoration projects underway across six ecologically significant ecosystems across the Wet Tropics region.
- 125 Traditional Owners, scientists, and land managers brought together in targeted workshops to share knowledge, build relationships, and co-design practical solutions to key threats to key values.
- 79% of funded projects involve Traditional Owners—ensuring Indigenous knowledge and leadership are central to conservation efforts.
- Key ecological data gathered, improving understanding of Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), the species they support, and the most urgent threats they face.
- A significant rise in cross-sector collaboration and regional coordination—bringing together government, community, industry, Traditional Owners and science.
- These efforts are helping to connect and buffer critical ecosystems, secure climate refuges, and improve habitat condition for many species.

CURRENT PROJECT SITES



WHY THIS APPROACH MATTERS

Working at the scale of ecosystems and landscapes enables us to achieve greater impact. This approach allows us to:

- Protect multiple threatened species at once by safeguarding the diverse habitats they rely on.
- Restore larger areas of connected habitat, helping wildlife move, adapt, and survive in changing conditions.
- Tackle regional-scale threats, like invasive species and climate impacts, in a coordinated way.
- Build partnerships that last—between Traditional Owners, scientists, communities, and government.



Australian Government



TERRAIN
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- The Australian Government's listing of the Eastern Forests of Far North Queensland as one of Australia's 20 Priority Places for threatened species recovery has scaled up restoration partnerships in Far North Queensland.
- Working with organisations like Wet Tropics Management Authority and the Restoration Alliance has combined our strengths. Partnerships enable a more holistic and effective approach.
- Short-term projects are ideal for improving habitat condition, but activities like revegetation, ecological monitoring, and deep community engagement require longer-term investment.
- Building trust with private landholders takes time—future efforts must provide the resources and space to grow these relationships.
- Adaptive management is critical, but current funding models often limit flexibility and responsiveness.
- Some regionally significant areas for restoration remain elusive due to complex tenures and landscape fragmentation. A coordinated and voluntary Strategic Rehabilitation Areas approach represents a breakthrough opportunity.

These lessons have directly shaped how we're planning for what comes next.

WHAT'S NEXT

We're looking forward to co-designing the next phase with the range of people and organisations that have been participating in the current project.

The key design principles we are integrating are:

- Longer-term, larger-scale conservation outcomes.
- More inclusive and flexible activities to meet diverse ecological and community needs.
- Stronger Traditional Owner leadership across all stages of planning and delivery.
- Private landholder participation incentivised and scaled up to expand restoration across tenures.
- Ecosystem restoration embedded into local and regional land-use planning.
- Coordinated investment in strategic rehabilitation areas to resolve wicked fragmentation legacies.
- Natural capital thinking and green infrastructure built into future resilience planning.
- In addition to a continuation of strategic on ground work, the focus is on building a transformative, long-term approach to protecting the Wet Tropics and Eastern Forests for future generations.



Australian Government



TERRAIN
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT