

HERBERT RIVER IMPROVEMENT TRUST ~ STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026



VISION

Improve the natural function and resilience of Hinchinbrook waterways and protect the community, agricultural areas and infrastructure through responsible riverine management.

PURPOSE

The Purpose of the Herbert River Improvement Trust (Trust), as a statutory body, is to operate in accordance with its powers and responsibilities constituted under the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and Regulations within the Lower Herbert River Catchment Area.

The Trust will repair and prevent damage to waterways in the Lower Herbert River Catchment Area in order to:

- protect the local community, their assets, their water security and infrastructure;
- improve the natural resilience of the area to flooding and cyclones; and
- improve water quality and the health of the river system and its functions.

SCOPE

Lower Herbert River Catchment Area, including Herbert River and its tributaries including Gowrie Creek, Hawkins Creek and the Stone River and other creek systems within the Hinchinbrook Local Government Area (Hinchinbrook LGA) including Palm Creek, Trebonne Creek, Insulator Creek and Cattle Creek.

KEY OBJECTIVES

Strategic Partnerships

Improve Riverine Function & Resilience

Mitigate Effects of Flooding

Community Engagement

INITIATIVES

- Engaging with the local community to develop and deliver the Annual Works Program
- Proactively liaising and partnering
- Seeking appropriate funding opportunities

- Addressing stream bank erosion and stream siltation
- Undertaking bank restoration projects and vegetation management projects
- Undertaking all projects in a professional manner
- Removing pest vegetation
- Protecting Trust assets

- Maintaining the Catherina Ck and Ripple Ck floodgates and the Halifax Levee
- Reprofiling of the Castorina sand island
- Vegetation management on the sand islands below Halifax bridge
- Managing in stream vegetation

- Promoting the Trust and what it does
- Providing a clear communication pathway
- Engaging with the community to progress solutions, promote riverine health
- Promoting best stream and riparian management practices
- Improving community understanding of waterway issues

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Community satisfaction
- # partners actively engaged
- Funding \$\$s received

- # projects completed
- # plants in area revegetated
- Area where pest vegetation removed
- Trust assets operational

- # times floodgates utilised
- # flooding events
- Tonnes reprofiled and height reduction
- Area where vegetation removed

- Community satisfaction
- Community involvement in projects
- Community understanding of issues