



**HERBERT RIVER
IMPROVEMENT TRUST**

STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

The mitigation of damage associated with riverine flooding, as well as stabilisation and improvement of the Herbert River and associated streams in the Trust area, to the benefit of the community.

FUNCTIONS AND ROLE

The Herbert River Improvement Trust is a statutory body and operates in accordance with powers and responsibilities of the *River Improvement Trust Act 1940* and associated *Regulation*.

The role of the Trust is to plan, design and undertake stream improvement works as far as possible resources and legislation allow within the Trust's area.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

The Trust operates closely with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, as well as identified local and regional organisations with like interests in the delivery of projects.

FINANCIAL CAPACITY

Funding for the Trust is provided predominantly by the Hinchinbrook Shire Council via the annual Precept. As well, subsidies for identified works through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. State and Federal grant monies are also utilised where available.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Interaction with Stakeholders

Strategy

The Trust will engage and work with stakeholders to ensure concerns are addressed and agreed projects delivered.

Action

- Interaction with associated and like minded bodies
- Encourage local property owners to report areas of concern
- Constant communication with Hinchinbrook Shire Council regarding planning, engineering, and associated matters.

2. Institutional Arrangements

Strategy

To operate within its statutory limits.

Action

- Restrict works to only those approved
- Follow specific acts and policies.

3. Riparian Vegetation

Strategy

Encourage retention of appropriate riparian vegetation.

Action

- Encourage land owners to allow for riparian buffering where applicable.

4. Physical integrity of water courses

Strategy

Utilisation of engineering solutions where applicable.

Action

- Where approved undertake identified works
- Where not a Trust function, assist land owner with self funded works.

5. Flooding

Strategy

Development and maintenance of flood prevention levees where suitable, and maintaining clear streams.

Action

- Maintenance of existing levee system, including functioning floodgates
- Inspection and removal of debris and inappropriate dense vegetation where identified to enable clear flows.

6. Monitoring Services

Strategy

Assist with early warning advices for weather events.

Action

- Maintain existing system
- Share information with appropriate bodies.