NSW GOVERNMENT

Clarence River erosion management project

Riverbank remediation update

Background

In 2014 Transport for NSW commissioned the University of NSW's Water Research Laboratory to conduct a riverbank erosion study along the Clarence River.

The study made recommendations on how to best address erosion issues in several parts of the river. These issues are reported to have been caused by a range of factors including land management, flooding, loss of vegetation, stock access, natural factors and high-wash boating activities.

A multi-agency committee was formed with members from Transport for NSW, Roads and Maritime Services, North Coast Local Land Services, Soil Conservation Services and Clarence Valley Council.

The committee developed a 12-point Management Action Plan which seeks to ensure the long term environmental sustainability of the river.

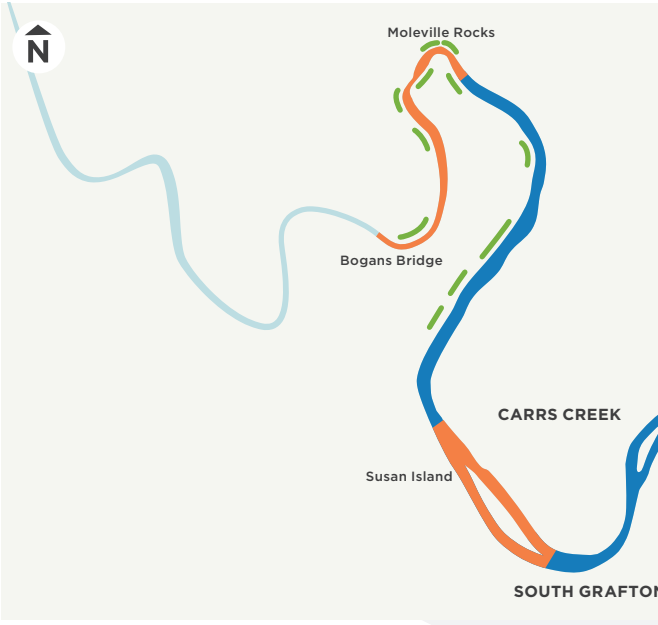
The actions were expected to be in place for a period of two years from September 2015 to September 2017. In October 2016 the plan was extended for a further three to five years to accommodate remediation work.

Management plan actions

In response to the study, boating restrictions were introduced on sensitive sections of the upper Clarence River in late 2015. The study also identified 22 riverfront properties for riverbank remediation work. In September 2016 meetings were held with property owners to discussion remediation strategies.

Public meetings were held in November 2016, November 2017 and September 2018 to update the community on the extension of management measures and discuss progress on the plan.

Clarence River map showing both affe

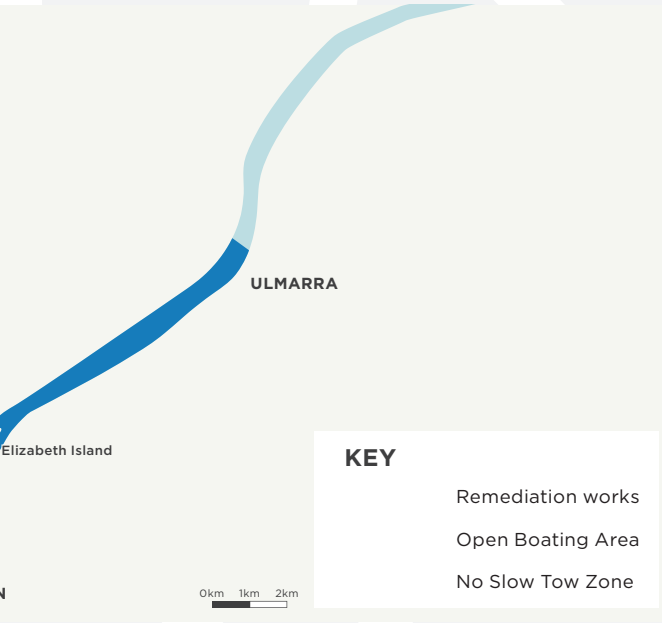


Progress update

Boating restrictions remain in place and work underway includes:

- Work materials such as tree trunks and root balls have been sourced from nearby clearance activities along the Pacific Highway
- A trial of barge works was conducted on two properties in August 2018 to assess logistics, timing and strategies. The trial was a resounding success with all results close to or better than expectations. This has now cleared the way for the balance of the land remediation work to be carried out in late 2018
- Work is underway to grow a large number of saplings that will form the foundation of the soft revegetation works. Work is also progressing on the cultivation of a very tough aquatic grass which, if trials prove fruitful, will be a great adjunct to the land work in the area

cted and remediation areas



- Cultural and heritage assets have been discovered in the Moleville Rocks area, and as a result the remediation plan has been adjusted to focus on soft works on the banks in these areas.
- The purchasing and stockpiling of materials, sourcing of vegetation and finalising the costs for the remediation work is continuing.

Roads and Maritime, in conjunction with our partners, Transport for NSW, Local Land Services, Soil Conservation Services and Clarence Valley Council, will continue to keep property owners, stakeholders and the community updated as the action plan progresses.

Contact us

If you have any questions, please contact our project team on **1800 870 499** or email **ClarenceRiverErosion@rms.nsw.gov.au**

For more in-depth information on the project, including a video of the trial remediation work, please visit **rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/northern-nsw/clarence-river-erosion/index**

Seen something?

Roads and Maritime Services Boating Safety Officers are responsible for managing compliance in accordance with the relevant regulations and new management actions on the Clarence River.

Non-compliance with the regulations can also be reported by calling **13 12 36** 8.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday.

For more information:

rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime

13 12 36

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