



## MARIA CREEK HOWARD – LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018





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#### 1. DETAILS AND TENURE OF THE SUBJECT LAND

Local Government: Fraser Coast Regional Council

**Area of land (in hectares):** Total 4.7 Hectares

Land Manager: Fraser Coast Regional Council as land owner and manager of

dedicated road

Lot Plan	Address	Tenure	Purpose	Area (Ha)
7RP13676	2-14 James Street Howard Qld 4659	Freehold	Park and Recreation	0.8094
5RP13663	2-14 James Street Howard Qld 4659	Freehold	Park	0.9834
	Maria Street and King Street (in part)	Dedicated Road	Road	2.9000

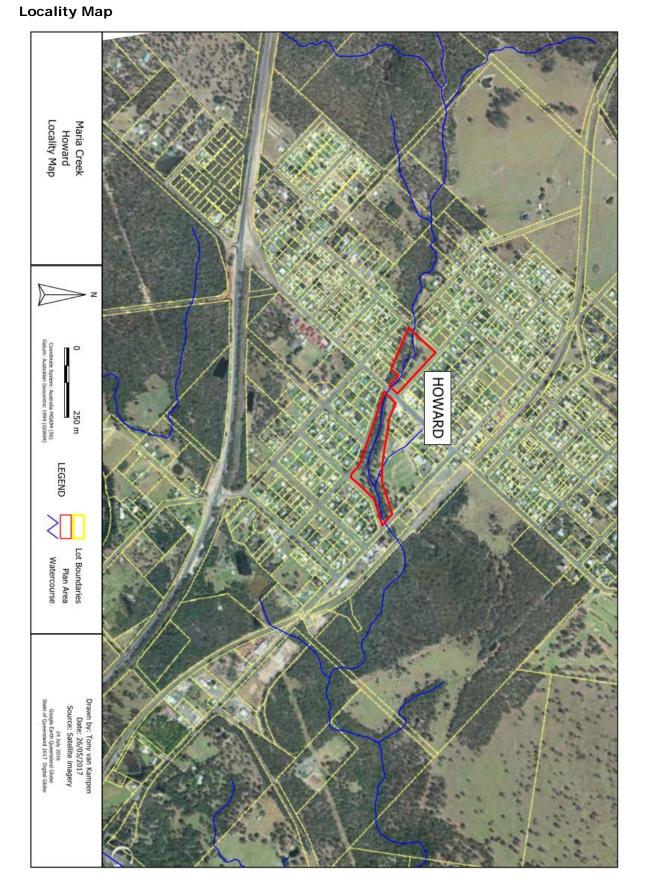
#### 2. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Fraser Coast Regional Council, as the management authority for the dedicated road area has rights, powers and responsibilities derived from the Land Act 1994 and the Local Government Act 2009.
- The constructed road surfaces and verges are excluded from the plan area. The proposed management of the remaining dedicated road area is intended to support its intended function as a road by protecting the area from land degradation.
- It is proposed that the whole plan area including part of the dedicated road area and the freehold lots will be managed together as a single unit.
- Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Law No.4 (Local Government Controlled Areas, Facilities and Roads) 2011 provides the basis for Council management of public use of the plan area and restricts and regulates certain activities. This strategy recommends that the area be managed primarily to protect riparian, environmental and drainage values and also to provide a park and recreation area.
- Council is also bound by legislation in the management of the land, including the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Fraser Coast Planning Scheme (2014). Other applicable legislation includes the Queensland Biosecurity Act (2014), Old Fire and Emergency Services Act (1990), Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999), Queensland Nature Conservation Act (1992), Commonwealth Native Title Act (1993) and the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act (2003).
- Council has various strategies applicable to the management of public land, including the Fraser Coast Regional Council Fire Management Strategy and the Fraser Coast Regional Council Pest Management / Biosecurity Plan.
- Restoration of natural ecosystem areas within the site will be carried out according to the principles set out in the South East Queensland Ecological Restoration Framework (2012).

#### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT LAND

#### **Description and History of the land:**

- The Butchulla people are the traditional owners of the area.
- Maria Creek is situated in the centre of the township of Howard where it crosses the main street (William Street) adjacent to the business centre.
- Clearing of all native vegetation prior to the 1950's resulted in the creek becoming severely eroded.
- In the years following clearing, vegetation regenerated sparsely in parts of the area and earthworks were carried out to straighten and smooth out the deep erosion gully within the road reserve.
- Freehold lots were created in 1990 with Hervey Bay City Council as owner. Since local government amalgamations in 2008 the area has been managed by the Fraser Coast Regional Council.
- Starting in the late 1990's large scale tree planting and revegetation works were undertaken by Council and volunteer community groups.
- The main use of the land historically has been for drainage purposes and low impact recreation.



#### **Existing uses:**

- The primary function of the Maria Creek riparian corridor is for drainage. However areas adjacent to this are maintained as mowed areas for recreational use. Part of lot 7RP13676 was recently fenced for use as a dog off-leash area.
- Management of the riparian corridor compliments the uses of the adjacent constructed roadways and community and sporting land to the north of Maria Street.
- Natural vegetation improves the scenic amenity of this publicly high profile location and also provides wildlife habitat.
- The two freehold lots are zoned as "Low Density Residential" in the Fraser Coast Planning Scheme 2014.
- No residential development is currently planned for the land given constraints due to flood risk and current community use.
- Council Local Law No. 4 includes provisions to protect health and safety and preserve natural and built features and amenity. Camping is prohibited on the land under the Local Law.

#### **Existing interests:**

There are no existing interests related to the reserve.

#### **Existing infrastructure:**

The site hosts minimal embellishments maintained by Council:

- Pedestrian footbridge and connecting paths cross the creek in Maria Street road reserve.
- Rock lined banks and inlet drains downstream of the traffic bridge in William
- Fencing on steep bank area in Lot 7 adjacent to William Street and adjacent to Maria Street.
- Dog off-leash area fencing.

#### Detailed site description:

- The plan area is part of the larger Maria Creek system which rises about 4 kilometres west of the town centre, runs through the town and then enters the Burrum River about 2 kilometres to the east.
- All of the stormwater in the town centre flows into Maria Creek. Much of the time water flow is minimal or non-existent with only a few shallow permanent pools, however during rainfall events water levels increase dramatically and localised flooding occurs.
- Excavation and revegetation works carried out in the past have largely stabilised the bank erosion however steep erosion scarps still exist in the creek bed area.
- The site remains susceptible to flooding and bank erosion, and the shape of the creek banks will continue to change in response to intermittent high water flow.

- Air photography confirms that in the mid 1950's the creek was largely devoid of vegetation and erosion was severe. Over the years natural regeneration assisted by revegetation work has resulted in a relatively dense vegetated riparian zone.
- No mapped remnant vegetation is present however pre-clearing mapping indicates that prior to European settlement regional ecosystem 12.3.11 was present. This is described as Eucalyptus tereticornis (Queensland bluegum) +/- Eucalyptus siderophloia (grey ironbark), Corymbia intermedia (pink bloodwood) open forest on alluvial plains usually near coast.
- A vegetation survey conducted in May 2017 revealed the presence of some of these major canopy species and also a diverse range of other species which have regenerated naturally and planted as part of revegetation projects.
- Floristic diversity of the site has been increased by the planting of mostly local native species. In particular many vine forest species which belong in this riparian area have been introduced.
- No significant or unusual flora species are present and no specific information about fauna is currently available. However the riparian area has the potential to function as a wildlife corridor and provides habitat for fauna.
- The vegetation present is critical to the stability of the creek banks and the surrounding land during flooding events.
- In the past heavy mulching has been used to stabilise and manage replanting areas.
- Minor damage is occurring from impromptu use of the bank by cyclists from the adjacent skate park at the eastern end of the area.
- The site is exposed to water borne weeds due to the relatively high and continuing disturbance of the site and location in an urban area.
- A large variety of weed species are present. Whilst these detract from the area in terms of native biodiversity protection they contribute to bank stability and erosion control.
- The most serious weed species present are those which are listed as category 3 restricted invasive plants under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and one which is listed as a local law pest plant: Anredera cordifolia (Madeira vine), Asparagus aethiopicus cv. Sprengeri (basket asparagus), Asparagus plumosus (climbing asparagus fern), Bryophyllum delagoense (mother of millions), Bryophyllum pinnatum (resurrection plant), Cinnamomum camphora (camphor laurel), Lantana camara (lantana) and Schinus terebinthifolius (broad-leaved pepper tree). These are required to be controlled.
- A search conducted on 29 May 2017 of the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register revealed that no Aboriginal cultural heritage sites were recorded on the register for the area.

#### Native title status:

The QC2009/005 Butchulla Land & Sea Claim #2 native title application covers this area. It was accepted for registration under the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 on 30 June 2010.

 Given that the area is comprised of freehold land and a constructed road, native title may have been effectively extinguished.

#### 4. PROPOSED USES/S OF THE SUBJECT LAND

#### Proposed use/s of the land:

- It is proposed to continue to use the land for drainage and low impact recreation. Continuation of these uses is appropriate given the location and nature of the land.
- Management actions proposed are intended to protect natural amenity, drainage and recreational values.
- Monitoring of the creek bank and vegetation will be undertaken to help with planning for any future remediation which may be required.
- Camping and fires will not be permitted due to the location of the land in an urban area.

#### Secondary uses:

 Current and proposed uses are considered to be consistent with the designated use of the road reserve and the town planning scheme.

#### Constraints and opportunities:

- Physical constraints include the location of the land adjacent to the centre of Howard, susceptibility to water erosion and flooding.
- Opportunities exist due to the ease of access and the space to contribute to scenic amenity and low impact recreation in the centre of Howard township.

#### **Development intended:**

No intensification of current low impact use is proposed.

#### 5. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Members of the public with an interest in the management of the reserve will be invited on the Council website to make submissions on the plan for consideration during the Council adoption process.

#### 6. GOALS AND ACTIONS OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### **Goal Statement:**

Protect and enhance the natural amenity and drainage functions of Maria Creek for the benefit of the people of Howard and provide a venue for low impact recreation.

#### Management Strategy 1: Geology, landform, hydrology and soils

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- Geological and soils landscapes are protected from unnecessary human disturbance.
- Creek drainage functions are maintained without the loss of soils to downstream riparian areas in the Burrum River system.

#### **Management Strategies**

- **\$1.1** Do not undertake any new works that may adversely impact on water quality or soils unless control measures are put in place.
- **\$1.2** Monitor bank stability and vegetation integrity and undertake remedial works to repair any highly degraded areas.
- **\$1.3** Monitor areas where water enters the main channel including grassed and rock lined drains and undertake remedial works to repair any actively eroding areas.
- **S1.4** Undertake further revegetation works to complement the existing corridor where required to assist with bank stabilisation.
- **\$1.5** Undertake weed control in a staged manner taking care not to expose soils to further water erosion.

#### Management Strategy 2: Native plants

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- The riparian corridor is made up of local plant species native to the site in order to maximise wildlife and amenity values.
- The site is protected from the effects of flooding and soil erosion by the planting and retention of suitable local native plant species.
- A stable riparian creek system is established which protects bank, drainage and corridor values.

- **S2.1** Monitor the performance of existing species and plan future revegetation efforts accordingly.
- **S2.2** Undertake further revegetation works to complement the existing corridor where required to assist with bank stabilisation.
- **S2.3** Allow natural regeneration of native vegetation where it is occurring.

- **S2.4** Control all declared weeds and those environmental weeds that are a threat to native vegetation.
- **S2.5** Encourage and support the involvement of local community groups in vegetation monitoring and management through the Community Environment Program and partnerships with other conservation organisations.
- **S2.6** Continue to maintain mowed areas outside of the riparian buffer in order to protect the riparian zone from the threat of wildfire.
- **S.2.7** Exclude the riparian buffer area from slashing and mowing and instead use mulching if needed as a way of controlling weed competition and encourage native regrowth.
- **S.2.8** Remove or prune any trees assessed as being a public danger according to AS 4373—2007 Australian Standard, Pruning of amenity trees.

#### Management Strategy 3: Native animals

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- The riparian corridor provides wildlife habitat and connectivity in the area.
- The diversity of native animals in the area is conserved.
- Knowledge of ecology and distribution of fauna species is increased.

- **S3.1** Facilitate basic fauna monitoring by enlisting the assistance of local community groups to identify the presence and abundance of birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals.
- **S3.2** Undertake vegetation removal or pruning where needed after storm or flood events under the supervision of a licensed Spotter-Catcher if native wildlife is present.
- **S3.3** Protect and enhance the habitat of native animal populations by controlling pest animals if any are found to be present, careful weed removal and planting of local plant species native to the site.
- **S3.4** Encourage and support involvement of local community groups in vegetation works through the Community Environment Program and partnerships with other conservation organisations.
- **S3.5** Avoid rapid, large scale control of pest plants to ensure that there are no abrupt changes in the availability of fauna habitat such as habitat for small birds (See Pest plants and animals).
- **S3.6** Promote public understanding and appreciation of native animals to increase awareness of local fauna conservation issues.

#### Management Strategy 4: Pest plants and animals

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- Adverse impacts of pest plants and animals on native flora and fauna are prevented or minimised.
- Pests are eradicated using methods that minimise disturbance and maximise benefits to natural systems and conservation values.
- No new pests become established in the reserve.
- Meet the obligations of pest control under the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014 and Fraser Coast Regional Council Local Law No 3 (Community and Environmental Management) 2011.

#### **Management Strategies**

- **S4.1** Make reasonable and practical attempts to control or suppress Category 3 restricted plants and plants declared under Local Law.
- **\$4.2** Reduce the numbers of other weeds species as resources permit.
- **S4.3** Record pest species and populations in the Council Pest Central spatial database. Make information from the database accessible to all Council officers via the Geographic Information System (GIS).
- **S4.4** Avoid rapid, large scale control of pest plants to ensure that there are no abrupt changes in the availability of fauna habitat such as habitat for small birds.
- **S4.5** Undertake weed control in a staged manner taking care not to expose soils to further water erosion.

#### Management Strategy 5: Fire management

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- Fire is excluded from the area.
- Unplanned fires are prevented and neighbouring properties protected.

- **S5.1** Maintain the fire resistant native vegetation within the riparian corridor.
- **S5.2** Continue to maintain mowed areas outside of the riparian buffer in order to protect the riparian zone from the threat of wildfire.
- \$5.3 Prohibit camp fires.
- **\$5.4** Clear and maintain a 5 m wide fire access track free of undergrowth and long grass at the interface between riparian vegetation in lot 5RP13663 and the rear of lots in Thomas Street.

#### Management Strategy 6: Cultural heritage

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- Aboriginal sites, places and landscapes of significance are conserved and protected from damage.
- There is cooperative and integrated management of Aboriginal places and relics with the Aboriginal community and relevant agencies.

#### **Management Strategies**

- S6.1 Consult Aboriginal people who have a traditional association with the land and relevant State and Commonwealth Aboriginal heritage authorities, in decisions regarding the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage, including identification of sites and actions to protect sites and landscape features.
- S6.2 Undertake cultural heritage assessments prior to any major new works and developments likely to impact on Aboriginal heritage values in accordance with the requirements of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.
- S6.3 Conduct a search of the Queensland Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register as part of any new cultural heritage assessment.
- **S6.4** Undertake further investigations before undertaking any activity, project or initiative on the site which has the potential to affect native title. When planning works on the site consult the Native Title Compliance Fact Sheet Docs# 2406129 and the Native Title Compliance Checklist - Community Purpose Reserves Docs# 2842428.

#### Management Strategy 7: Managing recreation

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- Access to the mowed open areas is maintained and access across the riparian buffer is facilitated for pedestrians and bicycle riders.
- A fenced dog off-leash area is maintained.
- The vegetated riparian zone provides a pleasant natural backdrop for sporting and other recreational activities on adjacent reserves.
- Ensure that existing recreation areas are protected from alienation or unacceptable development.

- **S7.1** Maintain the footbridge across Maria Creek to link the publicly accessible areas on either side, to avoid the creek becoming a barrier and direct foot traffic away from nearby roadways.
- **\$7.2** Investigate options to incorporate the existing road reserve into the park area.
- \$7.3 Remove rubbish that tends to wash into and collect along the creek-line.
- \$7.4 Retain fencing in the vicinity of William Street adjacent to steep banks which may be hazardous to pedestrians.

- **S7.5** Plant additional suitable vegetation in areas which have been damaged.
- S7.6 Remove or prune any trees assessed as being a public danger according to AS 4373—2007 Australian Standard, Pruning of Amenity trees.

#### Management Strategy 8: Community involvement

#### **Desired Outcomes**

- To engender appreciation, enjoyment and understanding of the values of Maria Creek.
- To encourage community and visitor involvement in the conservation and management of the area.
- Partnerships with organisations and statutory bodies that assist with the management of the area.

#### Management Strategies

- S8.1 Maintain up to date park signage which ensures that relevant and informative information is provided to visitors.
- **S8.2** Encourage and facilitate the involvement of community volunteers in revegetation and wildlife monitoring through the Community Environment Program and partnerships with local community organisations.

#### 7. BUDGET STATEMENT

Actions outlined within the final adopted Land Management Plans will be considered for inclusion in the annual budget process.

#### 8. MONITORING AND REVISION

#### Timetable:

Annual monitoring of reserve area will occur. This LMP will be reviewed after 5 years (2022).

#### Techniques:

Walk along both sides of the riparian corridor and photograph key areas such as the bed and banks of the creek, the footbridge and vegetation planting areas. In particular check and monitor any areas of significant erosion which may require remediation. Check general health of vegetation including for the presence of weeds. Check for the presence of rubbish within the bed of the creek.

#### Community feedback:

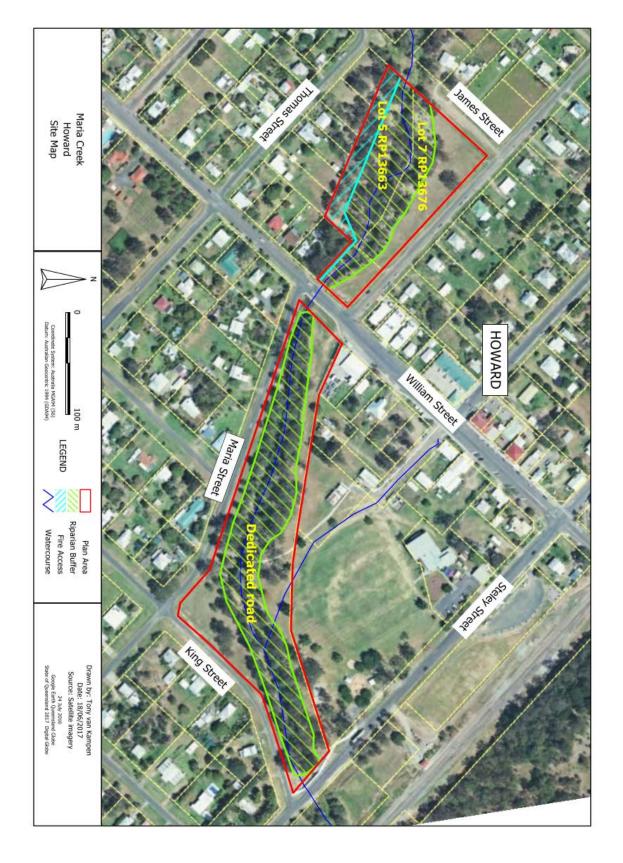
Information about the reserve and management will be made available on the FCRC website along with an invitation to the public to provide ongoing input.

#### 9. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The reserve will be managed primarily for protection of drainage functions and natural amenity values.
- Existing open areas will be maintained for low impact recreational uses.
- Native vegetation local to the area will be retained and enhanced where required to provide a natural backdrop to surrounding uses and also to protect the creek line from erosion.
- The existing road reserve will be incorporated into the park area to ensure drainage function and riparian values are protected.
- Where further embellishments or development is proposed, details of those works will be included in a Parks Masterplan which will be placed on public exhibition and considered by Council.

## 10. APPENDICES

## **Appendix A Site Map**



#### Appendix B Flora species list

Maria Creek Riparian vegetation between James and Steley Streets, including part of Maria Street road reserve.

Regional ecosystem: Disturbed

AMG 56J 455834E 7199557N MGA94

Collector: Tony van Kampen Survey Date: 15/05/2017

Notes: Most of the vegetation here was planted as part of bank stabilisation and habitat

enhancement works, from about the 1990's onward.

Status: C = Least Concern

#### Total local native species = 70

2/06/2017

Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
С	Acacia disparrima subsp. disparrima	hickory wattle
С	Acacia leiocalyx subsp. leiocalyx	early flowering black wattle
С	Acacia maidenii	Maiden's wattle
С	Allocasuarina littoralis	black she-oak
С	Alphitonia excelsa	soap tree
С	Angophora leiocarpa	smooth-barked apple
С	Araucaria cunninghamii var. cunninghamii	hoop pine
С	Archontophoenix alexandrae	Alexandra palm
С	Auranticarpa rhombifolia	hollywood
С	Banksia integrifolia subsp. integrifolia	coast banksia
С	Banksia oblongifolia	dwarf banksia
С	Brachychiton acerifolius	flame tree
С	Carissa ovata	currantbush
С	Casuarina glauca	swamp oak
С	Commelina diffusa	wandering jew
С	Corymbia intermedia	pink bloodwood
С	Cupaniopsis anacardioides	tuckeroo
С	Cupaniopsis parvifolia	small-leaved tuckeroo
С	Dianella caerulea var. caerulea	blue flax lily
С	Diospyros geminata	scaly ebony
С	Drypetes deplanchei	yellow tulip
С	Elaeocarpus obovatus	hard quandong
С	Erythrina vespertilio subsp. vespertilio	bat's wing coral tree
С	Eucalyptus tereticornis subsp. tereticornis	Queensland blue gum
С	Eustrephus latifolius	wombat berry
С	Ficus opposita	sandpaper fig
С	Ficus rubiginosa forma rubiginosa	hairy leaved fig
С	Flindersia australis	crow's ash
С	Flindersia bennettii	Bennett's ash
С	Flindersia schottiana	bumpy ash
С	Geitonoplesium cymosum	scrambling lily
С	Geodorum densiflorum	pink nodding orchid
С	Glochidion ferdinandi	cheese tree
С	Grevillea banksii	red-flowered silky-oak
С	Grevillea robusta	silky oak

Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
С	Guioa acutifolia	northern guioa
С	Harpullia pendula	Queensland tulip wood
С	Hibiscus heterophyllus	native hibiscus
С	Hibiscus splendens	pink hibiscus
С	Ipomoea plebeia	bellvine
С	Jagera pseudorhus var. pseudorhus	foambark
С	Leptospermum polygalifolium	wild may
С	Lobelia purpurascens	white root
С	Lomandra confertifolia subsp. pallida	slender mat-rush
С	Lomandra longifolia	spinyhead matrush
С	Lophostemon confertus	brush box
С	Lophostemon suaveolens	swamp box
С	Mallotus claoxyloides	green kamala
С	Mallotus philippensis	red kamala
С	Melaleuca leucadendra	fine leaf paparebark
С	Melaleuca nodosa	prickly-leaved paperbark
С	Melaleuca quinquenervia	swamp paperbark
С	Melaleuca salicina	white bottlebrush
С	Melaleuca viminalis	weeping bottlebrush
С	Melaleuca viridiflora var. viridiflora	broad-leaved paperbark
С	Melia azedarach	white cedar
С	Myrsine variabilis	muttonwood
С	Nymphoides indica	water snowflake
С	Pandorea pandorana	wonga vine
С	Petalostigma pubescens	quinine bush
С	Pittosporum revolutum	yellow pittosporum
С	Polyscias elegans	celery wood
С	Smilax australis	barb wire vine
С	Solanum stelligerum	devil's needles
С	Streblus brunonianus	whalebone tree
С	Syzygium australe	scrub cherry
С	Toona ciliata	red cedar
С	Trema tomentosa var. aspera	poison peach
С	Trophis scandens subsp. scandens	burnie vine
С	Typha domingensis	cumbungi, bulrush

#### **Appendix C Restricted weed species list**

Maria Creek Riparian vegetation between James and Steley Streets, including part of Maria Street road reserve.

Regional ecosystem: Disturbed

AMG 56J 455834E 7199557N MGA94

Collector/s: Tony van Kampen

Survey Date: 15/05/2017

Notes: Most of the vegetation here was planted as part of bank stabilisation and habitat enhancement works, from about the 1990's onward.

Status: \* = Weed Species 3 = Category 3 restricted invasive plant under the Biosecurity

Act 2014. L = Local Law Declared in Fraser Coast Region

#### Total weed species = 39 (includes non-local native species)

2/06/2017

Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
*	Ageratum houstonianum	blue billygoat weed
3	Anredera cordifolia	Madeira vine
3	Asparagus aethiopicus cv. Sprengeri	basket asparagus
3	Asparagus plumosus	climbing asparagus fern
*	Bidens pilosa	cobbler's pegs
3	Bryophyllum delagoense	mother of millions
L	Bryophyllum pinnatum	resurrection plant
3	Cinnamomum camphora	camphor laurel
*	Citrus x limon	bush lemon
*	Corymbia torelliana	cadaghi
*	Crassocephalum crepidioides	thickhead
*	Eugenia uniflora	Brazilian cherry tree
*	Ficus benjamina var. benjamina	weeping fig
*	Gomphrena celosioides	gomphrena weed
*	Justicia betonica	white shrimp plant
3	Lantana camara	lantana
*	Macroptilium atropurpureum	siratro
*	Megathyrsus maximus var. maximus	common Guinea grass
*	Morus nigra	black mulberry
*	Murraya paniculata cv. 'exotica'	mock orange
*	Ochna serrulata	ochna
*	Passiflora edulis	common passion fruit
*	Passiflora foetida	stinking passionflower
*	Passiflora suberosa	corky passion flower
*	Pinus elliottii	slash pine
*	Portulaca oleracea	pigweed
*	Praxelis clematidea	praxelis weed
*	Rivina humilis	coral berry
*	Schefflera actinophylla	umbrella tree
3	Schinus terebinthifolius	broad-leaved pepper tree
*	Senna pendula var. glabrata	Easter cassia
*	Sida cordifolia	flannel weed
*	Sida rhombifolia	Paddy's lucerne
*	Solanum nodiflorum	blackberry nightshade
*	Solanum seaforthianum	Brazilian nightshade

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Status	Scientific Name	Common Name
*	Solanum torvum	devil's fig
*	Stachytarpheta jamaicensis	light blue snakeweed
*	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm, Cocos palm
3	Tecoma stans var. stans	yellow bells
*	Urena lobata	urena weed