



Tackling climate change

WTMA has submitted a proposal to the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund to reconnect isolated areas of forest in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and make the rainforests and their plants and animals more resilient to climate change.

Creating Connections aims to restore 11 ecological corridors connecting the coast from Cardwell and Cairns to the cool, wet rainforests of the Tableland mountain ranges.

These corridors would traverse cleared areas where roads, farmlands and rural subdivisions have prevented many species from moving across the landscape. They would provide habitat for numerous Wet Tropics animals like the endangered cassowary and mahogany glider, and animals that live in upland forests such as tree kangaroos, lemuroid ringtail possums and golden bowerbirds. These ecological linkages will also allow animals and plants to move across the Wet Tropics landscape more easily and adapt to the impacts of forest fragmentation and climate change.

The project would build on the great work, expertise and capacity already achieved by many Wet Tropics tree planting groups, and provide them with funds to continue their essential restoration and weed control works for another five years.

The proposal was developed by the Wet Tropics Management Authority in partnership with Terrain NRM, Queensland Office of Climate Change, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, and local catchment management groups.

