

## 12,000 native plants ensure riparian resilience at Oaky Creek

**MACKAY // THURSDAY 16th July 2020**

More than three years after the region was battered by a powerful cyclone, lessons are still being learned from the now-complete repairs made to a creek system at Oakenden near Homebush, south west of Mackay.

Following severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie in 2017, funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) enabled the restoration activities of Oaky Creek.

Works to the creek were carried out based on extensive consultation with landholders and other community stakeholders.

The result was a combination of earthworks, rock reinforcements, large woody debris and over 12,000 native plants installed to stabilise sites, provide a buffer between the creek and adjacent cane paddocks, and build resilience into the creek to withstand future flood events.

The NDRRA funding was a two-year program which ended in June 2019, however, Reef Catchments wanted to ensure that the Oaky Creek landholders involved in the program were still supported while the revegetation sites were establishing and that the knowledge and lessons learned were communicated among them and other stakeholders.

Funding support through the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality program has ensured the continuation of revegetation maintenance and a peer to peer learning opportunity for the Oaky Creek restoration project over the last several months.

Reef Catchments Streambank Project Officer Carla Lambropoulos said: “While COVID-19 put a halt to some of the planned peer-to-peer stakeholder events, we’ve continued to work around these road blocks and still share knowledge and lessons learnt through the development of factsheets, online surveys and a peer-to-peer presentation.

“The funding support from the Reef Water Quality program has helped Reef Catchments to ensure the success and resilience of the Oaky Creek riparian restoration program.”

This project is jointly supported by the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality program and Reef Catchments.

**ENDS**

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