



HEADWATER CUSTODIANS - UPPER CLARENCE CATCHMENT GROUP

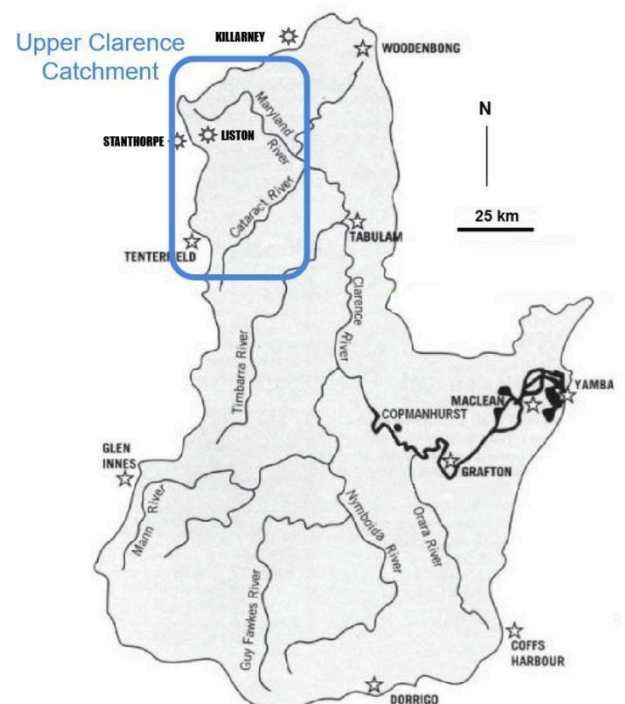
Project Summary and Potential Options for Pilot group and other Landholders

Who are we?

The group consists of land managers in an area running from the north-west top of the watershed to the beginning of the named Clarence River. Altitude ranges from just over 1000 m to 500 m above sea level. The majority of the area is used for cattle grazing with some sheep in the upper areas. There are a number of National Parks and State Forests in the area. The soils are largely of granite origin and the climate is described as a temperate oceanic or subtropical highland climate. Rainfall varies across the region from 1125ml to 700ml.

What are our natural assets?

The area across the Upper Clarence Catchment has strong and growing biodiversity levels, widespread use of regenerative agriculture practices and a committed and innovative community. The Upper Clarence has large areas of remnant native bush including at least two endangered ecosystems, Box Gum Grassy Woodland and New England Peppermint. The area has a diverse representation of vulnerable and endangered fauna and flora across a range of ecosystems.



This document summarises the outcome of a period of input and co-operation from a number of landholders in the Upper North West catchment of the Clarence River working with Regen Farmers Mutual. The project aims to integrate landholders' efforts to enhance and manage biodiversity, achieve a positive greenhouse gas emissions balance and manage the hydrology of the region in a way that will provide local benefits and benefits to all parts of the Clarence River.

This project is proudly funded by the NSW Government in association with Regen Farmers Mutual.

As a landholder, what can I implement now and in the future?

Project members have expressed interest in a range of activities aimed at achieving these goals. These activities include –

- Management to achieve carbon sequestration
- Management for biodiversity outcomes
- Hydrology management

The group has collectively decided to focus on carbon sequestration initially and then to follow this up with a concentration on management for biodiversity outcomes. Reasons for this focus include the maturity of the carbon economy relative to the biodiversity economy, interest of members in livestock grazing and commitment to emissions reduction and opportunities provided by the project.

What can I do now?

At this time the only saleable projects are registered soil carbon and above ground carbon projects with the sale of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) as payments.

Methodologies are available now to register both tree planting and soil carbon projects.

Carbon methodologies (that generate ACCUs), estimated and/or measured, can be:

- Used to offset farm emissions
- Sold on the Carbon Market
- Inset into the supply chain for marketing advantage
- Held over for value adding to Biodiversity projects

How can I determine the viability of a project?

Farmers in other parts of NSW and QLD who are selling soil carbon ACCU's on the Carbon Market are currently achieving returns of \$100 to \$110/ha/yr net of all costs.

The next stage of the project will fund 10 pilot farmers (\$10,000/farm) to conduct an investigation (with the help of a Regen Advisor) into the opportunities to generate, measure and register carbon credits on their farm. The second stage of the project will fund an additional 10 farmers (\$5,000/farm). These investigations will prepare the participant to enter the Carbon Market or to use ACCU's for any of the above options.

Future opportunities

The third stage of the project will be the continuation of investigation of opportunities around the management of biodiversity.

Farmers and landowners involved with Headwater Custodians are standing on the cusp of a variety of opportunities to secure income streams in multiple areas for the future. At the conclusion of this pilot round the intention is to open the project to a new round of farmers to continue to build connectivity and linkages throughout the district providing not only additional carbon sequestration opportunities but adding to the diversity across the catchment and securing a more resilient future for all who live, work and rely upon the headwaters.

Next Steps: Contact a Regen Advisor, Apply for Grant, Instigate a feasibility study

Website: www.headwatercustodians.com.au

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