

A collaborative approach to protecting the biodiversity values of coastal wetlands, McCreadys Creek, Mackay.

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McCreadys Creek wetland ecosystem has been identified by Mackay City Council as a primary area of interest in relation to the preservation of the City's natural environment, and as a link between estuarine and coastal foreshore systems. The wetland system has significant coastal resource and biodiversity values and includes 'endangered' and 'of concern' regional ecosystems.. Continuing urban development around the McCreadys Creek catchment is placing additional external pressures on this ecosystem, especially the transition between fresh, brackish and estuarine ecosystems.

This paper highlights how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Mackay City Council are working together to ensure that the existing reserve system is expanded to assist in the protection of the coastal resource and biodiversity values of the McCreadys Creek wetland system. It examines how though the land surrender provisions of the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995*, that the EPA together with Council is actively acquiring valuable coastal wetland areas for ongoing protection. With the incorporation of additional buffers to the estuarine wetland and development of a Catchment Management Plan by Mackay City Council, these collaborative approaches will assist to protect and maintain the biodiversity values McCreadys Creek wetland system.