Caring for Catchments

The Caring for Catchments project delivered from 2023 to 2028 is the first of its kind, attracting some of the largest grant funding for riparian restoration to enhance flood resilience in Australia. North Coast Regional Landcare Network is excited to be delivering this project with funding from the Australian Government through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program 2022-23 administered by NSW Reconstruction Authority.

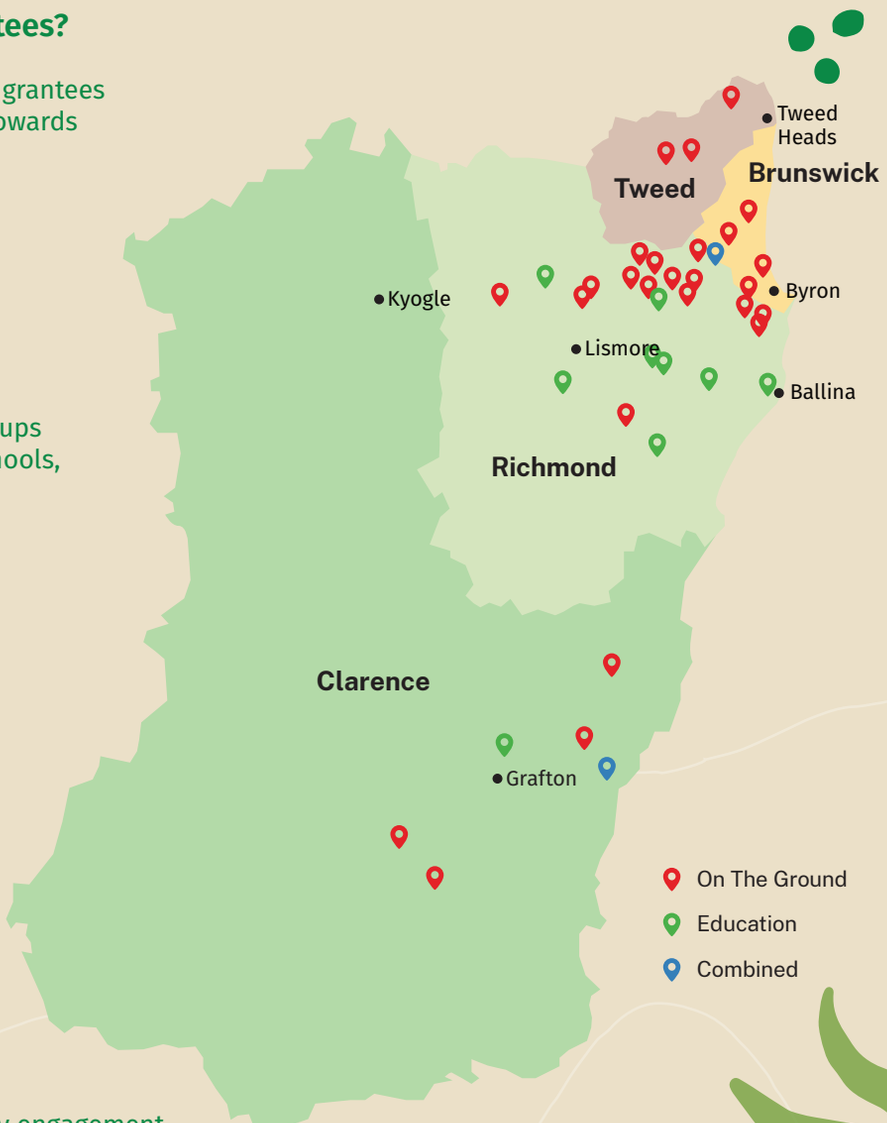
The Caring for Catchments project aims to improve catchment health, build flood resilience and enhance biodiversity through riparian revegetation and reforestation with the objective to restore and protect waterways by planting native vegetation along cleared river streambanks over the next three years.

The project delivers on-ground, nature-based measures that will assist flood mitigation, build resilience to flooding and improve catchment health. 34 land owners and land stewards in the Brunswick, Clarence, Richmond, and Tweed catchments applied for and were awarded grants under CfC to achieve five project goals.

Who are the Caring for Catchments grantees?

CfC has a diversity of stakeholders across our 34 grantees in 4 catchments (see map to the right) working towards our project goals including:

- Private landholders
- Landcare Networks/Groups
- Councils
- Environmental organisations
- Not-for-profit organisations
- First Nations organisations
- Collaborations involving any of the above groups including educational institutions such as schools, universities and govenment agencies



CfC projects consist of:

- 27 on-ground projects
- 6 education projects
- 2 combined on-ground & education projects

What does CfC deliver?

Caring for Catchmeents activities include, but are not limited to:

- Planting native trees and shrubs along waterways to improve water quality, stabilise riverbanks, and enhance habitat for wildlife;
- Fencing of riparian areas and providing offstream watering points;
- Weed management
- Knowledge sharing, education and community engagement programs promoting awareness and education about riparian restoration, flood resilience and environmental markets within the targeted catchments.

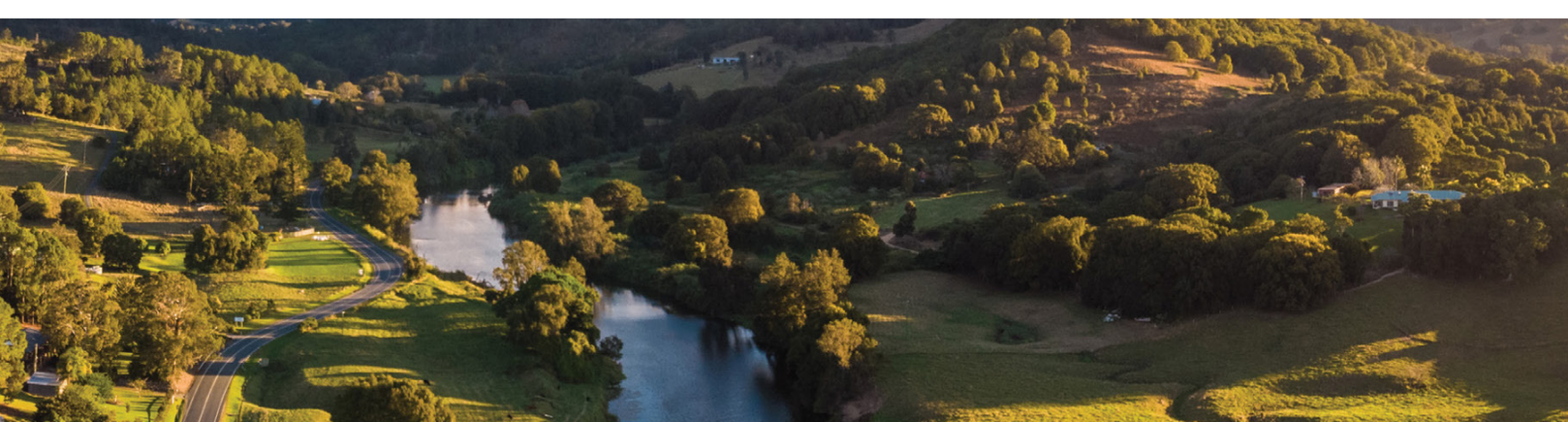
Project Goals

1. Demonstration of best practice for riparian restoration, to restore catchment health and resilience.
2. Compilation of data, reports, studies and other relevant information required for riparian and catchment projects to be planned and undertaken at scale, and make this information available to stakeholders.
3. Building capacity to utilise and benefit from markets for environmental services, by providing education for land managers about markets for environmental services.
4. Identify opportunities for education and training in repair and regeneration of the regional environment and contribute to development of this important new industry.
5. Fostering cultural change around management of the environment and natural resources generally and streams and catchments in particular, in a way that contributes to social cohesion.

Caring for Catchments will deliver a series of events in 2025 and 2026 that aim to:

- Foster collaboration between grantees
- share learnings in riparian repair and regeneration with the public
- Train and education stakeholders on the importance of riparian restoration for flood mitigation and catchment health
- Create social connections, enhance cultural knowledge and catalyse positive change for natural resource management in the Northern Rivers

Examples of events include workshops, tours, training and networking sessions across 4 catchments.



Want to learn more?

Stay updated with Caring for Catchments

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www.northcoastlandcare.org.au/caring-for-catchments

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