

Fauna connectivity strategy and rootballs – Woolgoolga to Ballina

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The NSW North Coast bioregion contains the greatest biological diversity in NSW and also contains the largest number of threatened species. Fauna Connectivity is an important, long term, environmental strategy that provides animals with structures to pass under or over the Pacific Highway so that their habitats remain connected on each side. In the past year logs have been salvaged from cleared land and the root balls at the base of the trees have been harvested.

Logs are providing 'fauna furniture' to give animals natural surfaces to help navigate the highway safely and move between their habitats on the east and west side of the road. Specially built fauna fencing along the road alignment guides animals towards culverts, underpasses, glider poles, and canopy rope crossings. Between Halfway Creek and Glenugie around 1.4km of fauna furniture has been installed and is being used by arboreal mammals such as possums and gliders

Aquatic habitat rehabilitation

Roads and Maritime are also working with local community groups and organisations including Tweed Council, OzFish Unlimited, NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and North Coast Local Land Services, Grafton, to provide root balls for waterway and aquatic habitat restoration projects.

Tweed Council has used root balls and logs for riverbank restoration and revegetation works on the Oxley River. In Grafton, NCLLS is delivering a project for Roads and Maritime to mitigate the effects of boat wash on the banks of the Clarence River. The 150 root balls that have been harvested for this project are being held in dedicated stockpiles along the alignment.

In the Coldstream River the NSW DPI - Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation will use root balls to restore riverine aquatic health by providing new fish habitats amongst the roots. Later in the year root balls will be salvaged from land clearing between Broadwater and Ballina and used by OzFish Unlimited to provide fish holding habitats in Emigrant Creek, a major tributary to the Richmond River.



Root balls and logs for riverbank restoration and revegetation