



*Our country. Our future.*

# WRAN CREEK FISHWAY

## Freeing fish to migrate



*Freeing more fish to complete their breeding cycle has helped restore some natural balance to a coastal creek in central Queensland.*

### Better creek access help migration

A fishway constructed on Wran Creek near St Lawrence in the Fitzroy Basin has given native fish species access to an additional 22km of nursery and feeding habitat that was previously blocked by a weir.

The ability to navigate past the weir by using the fishway will ensure more fish can complete their migration from salt water into fresh water – an essential part of the lifecycle of many species.

This means more barramundi, sea mullet and mangrove jack will be able to breed and boost fish populations and the productivity of future breeding seasons.

### How the fishway was built

The project was managed by Fitzroy Basin Association through funding from Caring for our Country. The design and construction of the structure was completed by Fisheries Solutions.

The project began in early 2013, with consultation with local landholders and a survey of the Wran Creek site.

Based on the flow characteristics, crossing structure, available funding and geology of the site, the most appropriate fishway was determined to be a partial-width rock ramp fishway.

Construction of the fishway occurred over three days, and was done by placing rocks of different sizes in strategic spots to provide structural support and creating v-channels to guide water.

Once the rocks were suitably placed they were concreted into position to form a 22m long, 11 tiered rock and concrete fishway.

The fishway design utilised the existing bedrock structure protruding from the downstream substrate in conjunction with the existing weir to help form the fishway walls and channel.

The design included a 'nib wall' feature to optimise fish movement through the fishway and away from the impassable weir structure.

### Restoring natural balance

Two trees removed during construction meant that revegetation work was also included in the project – a total of 30 native plants were planted to help restore the area.

The Wran Creek fishway is one of a number of fishways installed across central Queensland by Fitzroy Basin Association with the aim of reducing barriers to fish migration.

The association identified and prioritised barriers across the basin in the 2008 'Fitzroy Barrier Prioritisation' report, and Wran Creek was ranked 30th through this process.

