



FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

Media Release

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Fish get a helping hand after Raglan Creek work

A helping hand for juvenile native fish in Raglan Creek could spell good news for future anglers.

The first of two fish ways recently funded by Fitzroy Basin Association and built in the creek is already proving successful after 70mm of rain last week saw storm waters help many young barramundi, mangrove jack and bony bream migrate upstream to breed.

DPI's biodiversity project officer Richard Stewart said the Gentle Annie rock ramp structure removed a 70cm high barrier created by the wide concrete apron and under-road pipes of the causeway crossing.

Mr Stewart said Calliope Shire Council supported the three-day construction project by providing an excavator to manoeuvre rocks into place at no cost.

"It was gratifying to see fish moving through the newly constructed system which will certainly boost stocks of barramundi, mullet and mangrove jack as well as native fish species such as gudgeons and rainbowfish," Mr Stewart said.

The Gentle Annie road fish way project was one of two local fish way projects in Raglan Creek undertaken in a \$26,000 funding arrangement which includes six months monitoring of in-stream fish movement.

A third fish way would be installed next year at the Bajool Weir on Twelve Mile Creek, a permanent water course adjacent to wetlands that was an acknowledged juvenile barramundi habitat.

The work is a combined project involving the Department of Primary Industries, Info Fish and the Fitzroy Basin Association to improve the fish habitat and ecological health of the spring-fed creek. Funding from FBA comes from the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust Extension.

Nathan Johnston, FBA Regional Coordinator Water Quality said "This is a positive step towards restoring natural fish migration in the region and our goal is to assist construction of at least one fish way a year."

Mr Stewart said a monitoring programme to record how well the fish ways worked in overcoming natural barriers is also to be established.

“When the flood damaged original bridge was replaced with the concrete culvert structure more than 30 years ago, upstream fish migration was restricted to only high water flood events,” Mr Stewart said.

Mr Stewart said when the Raglan Creek flow subsided work would begin on another simple rock ramp structure further downstream where another culvert bridge structure on Raglan Station road was also impeding fish movement.

Caption:
DPI&F Northern Fish Way
Team members at rock ramp
fish way built on Raglan
Creek at the Gentle Annie
Road bridge were from left,
technician Pete Stephens;
project officer Richard
Stewart; and team leader Tim
Marsden.



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