

## Steep slope stabilisation

Landholder	Richard McMillan
Map reference	2
Land use	Grazing and native forest conservation
Soil Erosion Solutions Grant	\$3,720 (trees, fencing materials, herbicide and tree guards)
Landholder's in-kind contribution	\$14,590 (labour, tractor work)

### The site

This grazing property in the upper reaches of the Tweed Catchment had tunnel erosion and minor slumping on a steep slope leading down to a creek. The root systems of the existing pasture were not deep enough to hold the subsoil. The slope is next to a 10ha area of high conservation value vegetation.



Richard McMillan in the original vegetation on the site



Tunnel hole at Upper Crystal Creek



Trees planted across slope

### The project

- > Cattle were removed from the site.
- > Deep-rooted local provenance rainforest trees were planted to help hold the subsoil in place.
- > The trees are maintained with weed control, tree guards and mulch.

### The benefits

- > The unstable slope has begun to stabilise.
- > The tree planting joins high conservation value vegetation on adjacent farms.
- > The site is now the first stage of a wildlife corridor linking Crystal Creek to Springbrook National Park (Qld).

### Landholder's experience

What was the **best thing** about this project?

"Recreating some of the biodiversity on the property that was previously lost."

What was the **most difficult** aspect of the project?

"Planting and mulching the area was difficult due to the steepness of the slope and proved very time consuming. An ongoing problem is protecting the seedlings from marsupials (of many varieties)."