



Close watch: Professors Richard Pearson and Angela Arthington at Behana Creek. Picture: DANELLE PRATT

Research into river health

RESEARCHERS from two universities are looking at ways to improve the health of our waterways through a series of case studies of local streams and creeks.

The team of 12, from James Cook and Griffith universities, descended on Behana Creek, south of Gordonvale, to begin a four-week field trip that would also see them take

samples from Babinda, Little Mulgrave and Wootin creeks to study the vegetation in and alongside the creeks.

They will also collect fish, insect larvae and other creek life to assess the condition of the creek banks and the health of the streams.

Program co-ordinator Niall Connolly said it was hoped information gathered could be used to help landowners

and users of the waterways to judge the health of river systems.

"We will be looking at factors such as run-off, sedimentation and soil erosion," Mr Connolly said.

"We have chosen an ecologically-diverse area, it's in the Wet Tropics region and within the four creeks there are land uses which will affect water quality."