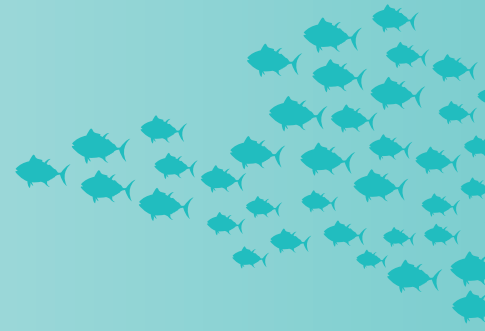


LOWER HERBERT WATER QUALITY PROGRAM



The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program aims to prevent 140 tonnes of dissolved inorganic nitrogen from entering the Reef each year

In the Lower Herbert River catchment, the sugar industry commenced operations in 1888. The regional community is highly dependent on the viability of the sugar industry. The Herbert catchment makes up about 45% of the Wet Tropics region and discharges more than 5,000 giganlitres of fresh water into the Great Barrier Reef. The Herbert River is one of the highest priorities under the Reef 2050 plan for the reduction of dissolved inorganic nitrogen lost through runoff.

Local partners in the Lower Herbert work closely with sugarcane farmers to increase uptake of farm management practices that both improve the productivity and profitability of their farms and reduce runoff of dissolved inorganic nitrogen.

Through extension services and access to capital to implement pollutant reduction activities, growers engaged in the program can improve the health of the soil on their land and gain access to tools that aid decision-making.

The 3.5-year, \$16.2 million dollar program is coordinated by Canegrowers Herbert River and is focussed on improving nutrient management practices on farms to achieve an enduring reduction in the long-term, end-of-catchment nutrient load.



Major Grants Project

The Major Grants Project provides financial incentives to sugarcane farmers who improve water quality through management practice changes that improve on-farm nitrogen management and reduce nutrient losses to improve water quality in the Lower Herbert region.



PROJECTS

Project CaNE

Project CaNE (Crop and Nutrient Efficiency) empowers farmers to improve farming practices that increase productivity and profitability while reducing dissolved inorganic nitrogen and other pollutants from entering local water ways that feed into the Great Barrier Reef.



Modernising On-Farm Mill Mud Application



Agro Group is providing the tools and knowledge to apply mill mud more accurately and efficiently to paddocks with consistent output for the calculation of modified fertilising rates. Efficient mill mud application reduces costs and improves the quality of water flowing off the farm.

Project Catalyst Broader Adoption

This project promotes the implementation of tested methodologies to improve on-farm management practices and significantly reduce pollutant loads entering the waters of the Lower Herbert and impacting the Great Barrier Reef.



Reef Credits

The Program is committed to purchase Reef Credits from GreenCollar. Farmers in the Lower Herbert region will generate and sell Reef Credits through validated and audited activities that go above and beyond regulations creating impact to endure far beyond the initial investment term.



Local Area Nutrient Datahub

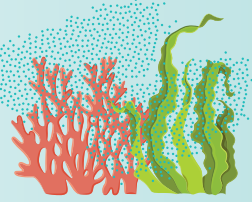
LAND is a secure digital storage system for farm, soil, and production data that enables easy long-term monitoring of performance over time. LAND uses crop history, land structure, and soil composition to produce an optimised Six Easy Steps nutrient management plan enabling growers to reduce excess nutrients flowing into local water ways.



Great Barrier Reef Foundation

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

LOWER HERBERT WATER QUALITY PROGRAM



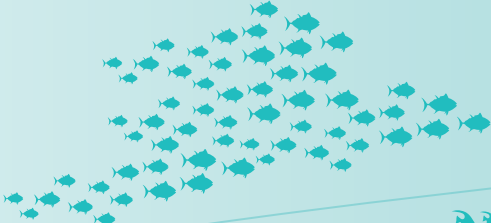
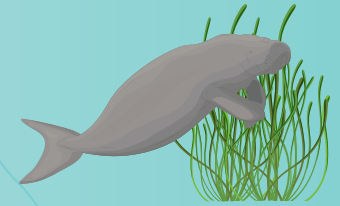
Pollutants reduce the Great Barrier Reef's ability to recover from catastrophic events such as tropical cyclones and mass coral bleaching



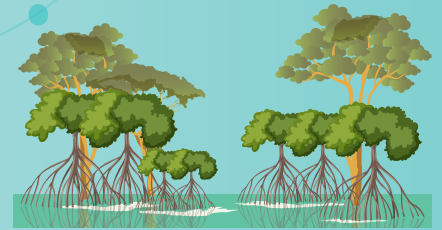
Improved nitrogen management practices can reduce DIN runoff while maintaining productivity



Algal blooms can compete for space, affect coral metabolism, reduce coral settlement and increase susceptibility to coral disease



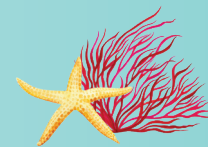
A recent survey found more than 80% of growers agree that adopting new farming practices was both easy and a good thing to do



Wetlands in the lower Herbert catchment used to act like a sponge for nutrients, but more than 80% of floodplain wetlands have been lost



Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) is a nutrient that is immediately available for uptake by plants and can cause algal blooms



Grower quote

"We love the Reef and want to do everything in our power to make sure we sustain it for generations to come," said one involved canegrower.

"Getting involved in this program is showing that. If you're established in the industry, it can be valuable to check where you are at, and if you are new and want to learn more, then it is perfect for that too."



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