MARY WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The Mary Water Quality Program aims to reduce the amount of fine sediment from the Mary River that enters the Reef by 26,000 tonnes per year

Waterways in the Mary River catchment carry 301,000 tonnes of sediment to the Great Barrier Reef each year. A legacy of historic land clearing, extensive sand and gravel extraction, and eroding riverbanks make it one of the highest contributors of sediment across the Reef's 35 catchments.

The Mary Water Quality Program is a four-year, $9.4 million program that aims to stop 26,000 tonnes of sediment from entering the Great Barrier Reef every year. That is almost four cement truckloads of sediment a day being kept on land where it belongs, instead of smothering Reef ecosystems.

This program is delivered by the Mary River Recovery Consortium – a group of dedicated organisations that connects with landholders across the Mary River catchment – to implement projects that stabilise and revegetate badly eroded sections of the Mary River.

alluvium | Burnett Mary Regional Group | Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee

GRAZIER SPOTLIGHT

WATSON'S DAIRY FARM

The Watson family's property is a dairy operation with approximately 500 animals. During their 30 years of ownership, the Watsons noticed their riverbank was being impacted by flooding and erosion. They revegetated the area to protect much of it from the 2013 flood event, but further long-term stabilisation was required.

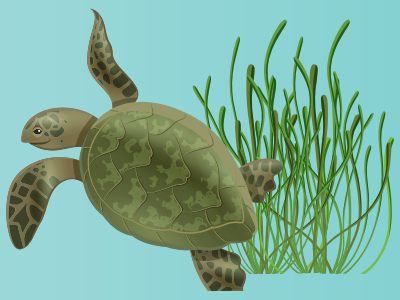
With help from the Mary River Recovery Consortium, the Watsons were able to successfully stabilise and restore the riverbank. An engineered riverbank slope was developed and cemented with pile fields to prevent further erosion, while native vegetation was planted and allowed to grow. Within 15 years, the pile fields will rot and leave a pristine and steady riverbank for years to come.

Elke Watson, co-owner of Watson's Dairy Farm, says: "It feels good to know we are doing something on our farm that benefits not just the communities down the river and on the Reef, but actually the world as a whole."

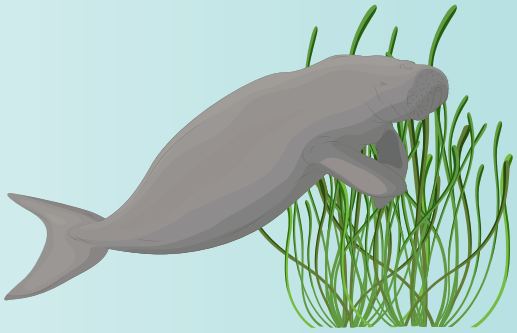
Australian Government | Reef Trust | Great Barrier Reef Foundation

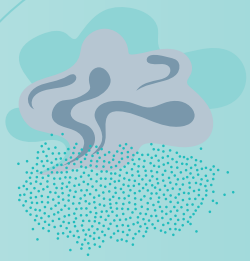
The Mary Water Quality Program is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

MARY WATER QUALITY PROGRAM



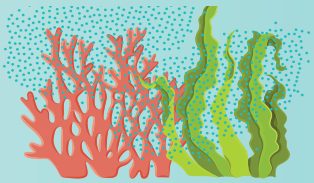
Seagrass meadows are important feeding grounds for turtles and dugongs who are natives of the Mary region



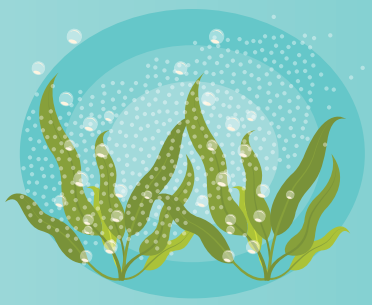


Reducing sediment also reduces the transport of phosphorous and dissolved inorganic nitrogen, other pollutants that harm Reef ecosystems

The Mary River Recover Consortium is a partnership between Burnett Mary Regional Group, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee and Alluvium Consulting



Fine sediment smothers corals and seagrasses, blocking the natural light they need to survive



Shallow seagrass meadows and soft coral gardens near the coast make the Mary region's marine ecosystems particularly vulnerable to high sediment loads

About 70% of fine sediment that enters the Reef from the Mary Catchment is the result of streambank erosion

Australian Government

REEF TRUST

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