

GRASS

Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions



Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions (GRASS) factsheet

What is GRASS?

The over \$14.5 million Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions (GRASS) program supports graziers in the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions to identify opportunities to improve poor (C) or degraded (D) land.

Extension officers work with graziers to develop and implement a tailor-made action plan for land management. The action plan assists graziers to improve and then maintain land condition with a specific focus on improving ground cover and reducing soil loss.

Graziers who have areas of poor or degraded land can apply to participate in GRASS and may be eligible for incentive funding for works identified in their action plan.

On-ground extension officers provide one-on-one support such as mapping areas of land in A, B, C or D condition and help graziers identify and implement actions to improve their land management.

Advice is also provided to help graziers understand their obligations and access support to meet the Reef protection regulations.

Overall, GRASS assists graziers to increase their productivity while helping protect the Reef by minimising soil loss from properties and supporting jobs and services in the grazing sector.

How long will GRASS run for?

The second phase of GRASS will run from 2023 to 2026 building on the first phase from 2019 to 2022.

Who is delivering the program?

GRASS is funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Burnett Mary Regional Group, Fitzroy Basin Association and NQ Dry Tropics.

How much funding is available?

The cost of developing the action plan for land management depends on the size and condition of participating properties and is covered through GRASS.

In addition, \$2.7 million in incentives funding is available to co-invest with graziers for on-ground works and improvements identified in their action plan. The amount of funding provided depends on the scale of the project and the private/public benefit.

Examples of work that may be eligible for incentives funding include installing watering points, riparian and hillslope fencing and small to medium scale gully remediation.

Is GRASS an acknowledged practice change project under the Reef protection regulations?

GRASS is an acknowledged practice change project as it helps graziers undertake practices that are consistent with the Reef regulations.

Graziers who have an action plan for land management have the opportunity to be acknowledged as a lower priority for compliance inspections while actively involved with GRASS. Graziers will need to consent for their

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name, property address, a description of the land on which the activity occurs, Australian Business Number (ABN)/Australian Company Number (ACN), contact information and term of involvement in the project to be shared with the Department of Environment and Science.

Graziers will be considered a lower priority for compliance inspections up to December 2026 or for two years after they join GRASS (i.e., 2027-2028 for those who join GRASS in 2025-2026).

Those who joined GRASS in 2022 will also continue to have the opportunity to be a lower priority.

What information will GRASS collect?

The information graziers provide will be held by DAF or the regional Natural Resource Management group. Some information about land management practice change will be reported to the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program (Paddock to Reef program). This includes GIS polygons of where practice change has occurred and responses to the Paddock to Reef program practice adoption questions. GRASS participants can also consent to complete a Perceptions of Practice survey at the beginning and end of a project.

Project data is aggregated by region, de-identified (no names, address or contact details) and reported at a whole-of-program level.

The Department of Environment and Science uses the de-identified data to report on the outcomes of GRASS and recognise the grazing community for their land management improvements.

How can graziers apply to participate in GRASS?

Graziers in the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions can apply by calling:

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries: 13 25 23

NQ Dry Tropics: (07) 4799 3500

Fitzroy Basin Association: (07) 4999 2800

Burnett Mary Regional Group: (07) 4181 2999

Graziers are also encouraged to contact these groups to explore other opportunities for improving their land condition and pasture cover.

Where can I find more information about the regulations?

Minimum practice agricultural standards apply for beef cattle grazing in the Burdekin, Fitzroy, Burnett Mary, Wet Tropics and Mackay Whitsunday regions.

More information, including a Grazing Guide that explains the practice standards and how to comply with them is available www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations. You can also request an information pack that includes the guidelines and relevant information.