

Queensland Reef Water Quality Program Investment Plan 2018–2019

Overarching action in Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan	Activity within Queensland Reef Water Quality Program	Lead agency	Funding source	2018–2019 investment from additional \$90M	2018–2019 annual investment
Responding to the challenge: actions to progress towards targets					
Minimum practice standards					
1.1 Implement minimum practice standards for agricultural industries, which can be met either voluntarily, e.g. through industry-led best management practice (BMP) programs, or as a result of regulation.	Support to voluntary industry-led BMP programs in cane, grazing, grains and banana industries, including continual improvement of BMP modules, benchmarking of producer's operations and accreditation to industry standard.	DES	Annual		\$7,764,318
	Proposed changes to the Reef regulations of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	DES	Additional	\$2,322,288	
	Reef regulation implementation.	DES	Annual		\$100,000
	Build compliance capacity for erosion and sediment control during urban, industrial and infrastructure construction and maintenance.	DES	Additional		
	Enhance integration of data and use the Water Tracking and Electronic Reporting System (WaTERS) to capture point source release monitoring and tracking data online.	DES	Additional		
	Targeted compliance program under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .	DES	Annual		\$1,650,000
	Transition program to support the cane, grazing and banana industries in Reef catchments to transition to new minimum standards. Additional, proactive compliance program to ensure effective implementation of the minimum standards to improve water quality. Implement minimum practice standards for all relevant agricultural industries.	DES	Transitional		\$0
Culture of innovation and stewardship					
2.1 Support land managers and industries to adopt improved management practices, e.g. through coordinated extension, education and awareness programs.	Extension and education				
	Boost extension resources, providing greater access for farmers to extension services to enable greater practice change in Great Barrier Reef farming communities and building long-term capacity in the advisory services.	DAF	Additional	\$2,455,000	
	Including extension and education activities targeted at adoption of voluntary industry-led BMP programs.	DES	Annual		\$1,000,000
		DAF	Annual		\$4,120,000

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	Enhanced education and extension coordination through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stakeholder engagement to achieve practice change; a review of current extension and education approaches; deliver a three year extension and education program based on the review; and developing a framework for education and extension. Pilot an agriculture capacity building program focusing on extension training networks and interns.	DAF	Additional	\$1,510,000	
		DES	Additional	\$110,000	
	Increased use and improved function of nominated grazing extension tools for extension service providers to support the capacity of graziers to make climate responsive management decisions using decision support tools such as Forage and Vegmachine.	DES	Annual		\$584,000
	Project Cane Changer – a large-scale social change program in the Wet Tropics to better understand motivations and associated benefits of behaviour change to encourage cane farmers to adopt actions that will improve water quality outcomes.	DES	Additional	\$728,111	
	Wetlands demonstration on-ground case studies, wetlands extension with clients, management of local wetlands committees, development and delivery of wetlands information and tools for landholders.	DAF	Annual		\$100,000
	Targeted extension approach to accelerate adoption of improved grazing management practices in priority areas in the Burnett Mary region.	DES	Additional	\$345,493	
	Implementation of two major integrated Projects (MIPs) in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin regions to pilot a range of activities with producers and the community to reduce nutrient, pesticide and sediment loads into local waterways and ultimately the Great Barrier Reef.	DES	Additional Annual	\$12,450,898	\$324,504
	DES’s scientific information, technical expertise and advice supports research agendas underpinning Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan) and the Queensland Government.	DES	Annual		\$162,000

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	Economic validation of practices				
	Validating the economics of management practices that improve water quality and providing this information to landholders in decision support tools and as part of the extension program.		Annual		\$1,395,000
2.4 Identify and address barriers to change and practice improvement uptake through programs and policy	Innovation				
	Great Barrier Reef Innovation Fund addressing agricultural management practices, water treatment systems and water and support to the Coral Abundance Innovation Challenge.	DES	Additional	\$2,477,506	
2.6 Trial and implement innovative monitoring, land management and treatment system solutions that aim to deliver water quality benefits.	Implement projects to build on successful trials of on-ground management practices. DAF's agricultural research and development projects in relation to grazing, sugarcane, grains, bananas and horticulture with partner organisations, including industry and universities that provide significant Reef water quality benefits through exploring new technology and practices, improved pesticide and fertiliser management, economic evaluation and incorporating improved management into farming systems.	DAF	Annual (co-contribution)		\$1,240,000
	Science in the paddock				
	Targeted projects of direct action to address water quality pollutants across all agricultural industries based on priorities through Science in the Paddock program.	DES	Additional Annual	\$364,648	\$3,968,832
	Demonstration projects to encourage improved practice uptake at a local scale.	DES	Annual		\$496,450
	Burdekin cane farmer engagement: complete nutrient management planning for cane farming (RP 161).	DES	Annual		\$492,000
Catchment restoration					
3.2 Use guidelines, Traditional knowledge, and decision support tools to design and inform interventions.	Queensland Wetlands Program Provision of wetlands tools and WetlandInfo web site. Delivery of walking the landscape whole-of-catchment management understanding.	DES	Annual		\$200,000

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3.3 Trial and implement innovation in catchment repair projects to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the Reef.	Targeted projects of direct action through sustainable landscape management and system repair including riparian revegetation, gully repair, streambank stabilisation and coastal wetlands rehabilitation.	DNRME	Annual		\$4,024,000
	Streambank and gully remediation projects including innovative gully remediation in partnership with Greening Australia and erosion management plan and operational works on Springvale Station.	DES	Additional	\$1,156,141	
	Reef Islands Project - protecting the Reef's most precious land and seascapes with a focus on islands and their adjacent waters.	DES	Additional	\$0	
	Reef water quality projects in the Central Queensland region seeking to reduce nutrient, pesticide and sediment losses to waterways.	DES	Additional	\$2,863,473	\$260,000
Enabling delivery					
Science and knowledge					
4.1 Identify, prioritise and fill knowledge gaps through the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan (Reef 2050 WQIP) Research, Development and Innovation Strategy (RD&I).	RD&I strategy development.	DES	Annual	no project cost	
	Address priority gaps in the Reef 2050 WQIP RD&I Strategy through Reef water quality research and development programs.		Annual		\$200,000
4.2 Integrate forms of knowledge including science, policy, management, Traditional Owner and community through regular synthesis workshops and theme-specific working groups to support consistent communication messages and guidance for managers.	Annual synthesis workshop across science, policy and management and projects arising.	DES	Additional	\$359,657	
4.3 Deliver decision support tools, communication and education products tailored to specific audiences.	Communication projects.	DES	Additional	\$262,493	
	Activities to improve communication and information to support large-scale change in practice, including communication tools, workshops, communication strategies and implementation plans.	DES	Additional	\$384,464	
Governance					

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6.1 Collaborate and coordinate between the Queensland and Australian governments, in line with the Reef 2050 Plan governance structures.	Secretariat support to governance groups.	DES	Annual		\$1,055,819
6.3 Ensure accountability of investment to outcomes in the Reef 2050 WQIP.	Annual Queensland Reef Water Quality Program Investment Report/Plan.	DES	Annual	Included in Governance	
	Program management.	DES	Additional	\$271,500	
Evaluating performance					
7.1 Monitor and model management practice and water quality improvements through the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program.	Implementation of Paddock to Reef program				
	Great Barrier Reef Ground cover mapping, Great Barrier Reef Loads monitoring, Riparian vegetation, Wetland condition, Wetlands Mapping and Extent.	DES	Annual		\$1,540,000
	Catchment loads modelling, Gully mapping, Paddock to Reef support to Regional Natural Resource Management body components.	DNRME	Additional Annual		\$1,540,000
	Management practice adoption reporting.	DAF			\$732,000
	Monitoring Modelling Evaluation and Reporting.	DES		\$1,536,000	
	Wetland condition monitoring and water quality monitoring and modelling.	DES	Annual (co-contribution)		\$1,190,000
	Ambient water quality monitoring, high resolution satellite imagery.	DNRME	Annual (co-contribution)		\$1,500,000
	Research and development improvement of water models in the Great Barrier Reef catchments through the Queensland Water Modelling Network (QWMN).	DES	Annual (co-contribution)		\$200,000
	Collection, storage, access and enhancement of information that support catchment restoration and land management as well as monitoring, modelling and reporting of outcomes in Reef catchments.	DES	Annual (co-contribution)		\$870,000
Data management and delivery through Science and Spatial Information Management for Reef (SSIMR).	DNRME	Annual		\$170,000	

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7.4 Evaluate the effectiveness of programs, governance mechanisms, and adaptations.	Develop an Evaluation Framework and annually evaluate and report on performance of overall Reef investment program and review governance.	DES	Additional Annual	\$50,000	\$82,965
7.5 Report progress towards targets, objectives and outcomes.	Develop and release a Great Barrier Reef Water Quality Report Card.	DES	Annual		\$484,131
7.6 Communicate regionally relevant information for management decisions and local communities.	Regional report card partnerships membership and support.	DES	Annual		\$2,278,662
7.7 Make data and information publicly available through a range of communication products.	eReefs	DES	Annual		\$0
	TOTAL			\$29,632,672	\$39,724,000

Departmental acronyms

DES Queensland Department of Environment and Science
DAF Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DNRME Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy