

REEF WATER QUALITY

Program



Reef protection regulations in the Great Barrier Reef regions New or expanding cropping and horticulture activities (ERA 13A)

Checklist for when a permit is required

From the 1 June 2021, you must obtain a permit before you begin the commercial cropping or horticulture activity, including any preparatory works.

You will need a permit if you tick all the following:

The cropping or horticulture will:

- not** be a closed system¹
- not** be for the cultivation of trees in a state forest, timber reserve, forest consent area or forest entitlement area, or a forest practice²
- not** be on land where a development approval is in effect for high value agriculture clearing or irrigated high value agricultural clearing
- be for **commercial** purposes i.e. carried out for a fee or reward
- be on at least **five hectares** of land **within the same river basin** within the Great Barrier Reef catchment
Use the online form at www.qld.gov.au/environment/agriculture/sustainable-farming/reef/reef-regulations/regions/reef-regulations-map to find out if your land is in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, and which river basin it is in.
- be on land that:
 - o **does not have a cropping history** i.e. the land was used for cropping or horticulture, either commercially or non-commercially, in less than three of the last ten years before the activity is due to start

OR

was not cropped, either commercially or non-commercially and including preparatory work³, **at least once during 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2021**⁴.

¹A closed system is where fine sediment or dissolved inorganic nitrogen is never released to land, or into water, in the Great Barrier Reef catchment e.g. hydroponics grown in a greenhouse where all the water is recycled on site.

² See the *Forestry Act 1959* for the meaning of State forest, timber reserve or forest consent area. See the *Land Act 1994* for the meaning of a forest entitlement area. See the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* for the meaning of a forest practice.

³ Preparatory work: Means work, other than building work, plumbing work or drainage work, carried out to prepare land for the activity, including, for example:

- (a) excavating or filling the land, or
- (b) clearing or destroying vegetation on the land, or
- (c) ploughing the land, or otherwise preparing soil on the land for planting, or
- (d) other work in, on, over or under the land that materially affects the land or its use.

⁴ From the 1 June 2026, a permit will be required if the land does not have a cropping history.