

# Queensland REEF WATER QUALITY Program



## What's new



### Tender now open calling for projects for a new \$6 million Streambank Remediation Program

Project proposals are now invited aimed at repairing eroded streambanks as part of a \$6 million Streambank Remediation Program, funded through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program (QRWQP).

The Streambank Remediation Program is designed to create jobs in regional communities while driving significant reductions in sediment flowing to the Great Barrier Reef.

The program is looking to fund major projects such as engineered bank stabilisation in the priority areas of the Fitzroy, Herbert, Mary, Bowen Bogie, East Burdekin, O'Connell and Pioneer catchments.

Organisations are invited to submit project proposals as part of a tender process, which closes at **2pm, Friday 25 November 2022**.

For more information, including details on the eligibility criteria, please visit [QTender](#) - DES122693.



### 1 December 2022: Reef protection regulations continue to roll out

From 1 December 2022, [Reef protection regulations](#) will apply across the Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions for [beef cattle grazing](#), [sugarcane production](#) and [banana growing](#).

From this date, graziers in the Wet Tropics, Mackay Whitsunday and Burnett Mary; sugarcane producers in the Fitzroy and Burnett Mary; and banana growers in the Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary will join producers who are already regulated.

You can [register now](#) for two online information sessions that will be held in November – one for sugarcane and one for beef cattle grazing - to help producers understand what they need to do to comply.

Due to the low numbers of banana growers in the newly regulated regions, there will no online session

for bananas. However, banana growers requiring more information on how to comply with the regulations are encouraged to email their questions to [ESReef@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:ESReef@des.qld.gov.au).



### **Assessment underway for Reef Assist 2.0 program proposals**

Eligible organisations were recently invited to submit proposals for the Reef Assist 2.0 program (program), with an additional \$10 million funding available for projects located within the six Natural Resource Management regions in the Reef catchment.

Proposals are being assessed, with applicants to be contacted by the Department of Environment and Science (the department) shortly.

The highly successful \$23.5 million program supports locally-led environmental rehabilitation and water quality improvement projects. Previous program funding has supported projects in streambank rehabilitation, wetland restoration, gully remediation, seed collection and propagation, native tree planting, soil condition improvement and threatened species habitat restoration.

To date, the program has created over 230 jobs in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday areas, with the next phase expected to also generate regional jobs.

Over 80 per cent of program participants, many of whom were unemployed, received training which has improved their future job prospects. Around half of participants identified as First Nations people, one third were youth and a fifth were women.

Find out more about the Reef Assist program [here](#).



### **Spyglass Research Station \$1.2 million gully remediation project**

Gully erosion is a serious issue with sediment run-off greatly impacting the quality of water flowing to the Reef.

The Queensland Government is investing \$1.257 million through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program for gully and streambank remediation work and research at a trial site at the Spyglass Beef Research Facility, in the Burdekin region.

Delivered through the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) a range of gully remediation works will be trialled to develop cost-effective techniques that can be used across Queensland.

DAF will work with professional erosion control experts, innovative graziers and local contractors to find what works best and improve scientific understanding of alluvial gully erosion.

The project will increase graziers' capacity to address serious erosion and reduce sediment exported to the Reef. It will also provide work for local contractors and engage local scientists to monitor water quality.

[The project is scheduled to run until June 2026.](#)

*Pictured: Simon Hunt, DAF project manager.*



### Regional waterway report cards released

It's been a busy couple of months for the regional report card partnerships.

The [Wet Tropics Waterways Partnership](#), [Dry Tropics Partnership for Healthy Waters](#), the [Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership](#), and the [Fitzroy Partnership for River Health](#) released their annual report cards during July and August, following the release earlier in the year of the [Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership's](#) report card.

One of many actions under the [Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan](#), regional waterway partnerships are funded by the Australian and Queensland governments, as well as industry, local government and community partners.

The latest round of report cards showed that waterway health in most regions remained steady or showed some improvement.

On a special note, congratulations to the Fitzroy Partnership for River Health, which recently celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Read more information on [regional report cards](#).



### Reef Credit brokers soon to be on-ground

Landholders in Reef regions will soon have access to specialist support to help them reap the financial benefits of Reef Credits as the process to recruit brokers nears completion.

Brokers will support interested landholders in identifying projects that could earn them Reef Credits through the Reef Credit Scheme.

Similar to Carbon Credits, the Reef Credit Scheme provides an opportunity for landholders to generate Reef Credits by undertaking projects that reduce nutrient or sediment run-off flowing to the Reef and then sell these credits, generating an additional income.

To learn more visit [Reef Credit Scheme](#).



### Looking for information on a Queensland Reef Water Quality Program project?

Do you know about [CORAL](#) – the Collection of Reef and Land database?

CORAL is a handy database that provides information about projects funded through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program.

You can search by project name, industry or location. There's a handy 'How to use' function on the homepage which shows the various functions of the database.

## Project updates



### Banana BMP program delivers

The success of the Australian Banana Growers Council's Best Management Practice (BMP) program was recognised during a recent visit from the department's Office of the Great Barrier Reef (OGBR).

The team spent three days in the Far North, working with the Banana BMP team to review the delivery of the program, over the past three and a half years.

Funded through the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program, the BMP program provides support and incentives to help growers make on-farm improvements to align their farming systems with recommended best practice, ensuring sustainability into the future.

Read more about the Banana BMP program and other [support programs](#) for banana growers or contact [Australian Banana Growers' Council](#).

### Review of the Scientific Consensus Statement



The 2017 Scientific Consensus Statement (SCS) provides the scientific understanding that underpins the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

Produced by scientists with expertise in Great Barrier Reef water quality science and management, the SCS is a major independent review that brings together peer reviewed scientific evidence to provide an understanding on how activities on land impact water quality and ecosystem condition of the Great Barrier Reef.

The SCS, which is updated periodically to ensure that Reef policy remains up to date and based on the best available evidence, is now under review.

The Australian and Queensland governments have engaged C<sub>2</sub>O Consulting to manage the review process. The Chief Scientists from both governments are providing oversight of the review and the Reef science advisory bodies are providing independent advice.

You can stay informed about how the 2022 SCS project is progressing [here](#).

## Events



### OGBR's partnership approach recognised at Excellence Awards

The Office of the Great Barrier Reef's partnership approach was recognised and acknowledged at the Department's (DES) Excellence Awards.

Addressing the shortage of skilled young workers within the agricultural sector with an innovative approach, the [Agricultural Extension Work Placement Program](#) delivered in partnership by the Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance (led by the Queensland Farmers' Federation) took out the top award for the *Empower Queensland Youth* category.

The [Reef Assist program](#) was recognised as the winner in the *Protect World Heritage areas including the Great Barrier Reef* category. Reef Assist works with local governments, natural resource management organisations and public and private organisations to deliver high priority environmental projects and generate jobs in Reef regions.

## Contact us

For more information about any of these projects, email [officeoftheGBR@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:officeoftheGBR@des.qld.gov.au)

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