

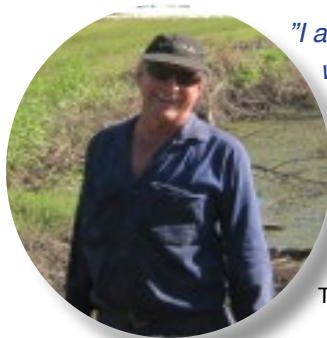
2014 water quality IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Sarina Beaches Management Area Progress Report

Summary of progress

The Sarina Beaches catchment area includes the urban areas of Hay Point, Campwin Beach and Grasstree Beach. Together these settlements comprise around 10% of the catchment area. Sarina Beaches also supports grazing production on more than 64% of the catchment area, cane on 6% and peri-urban development across 10%. Important remnant wetlands fringe the waters of Louisa Creek buffering, to some extent, the potential effects of shipping and port activities at Hay Point.

In 2007 the estuarine and freshwater condition of the Sarina Beaches catchment area were rated as moderate relative to other catchments in the Mackay Whitsunday region. Between 2007 and 2013 there have been efforts made by cane, grazing and horticulture producers in the catchment to improve management practices for water quality and ecosystem health benefits. During this same period there have also been changes in the urban footprint of the catchment altering some land use. Industrial and port development around Hay Point is changing the pressures on the catchment's ecosystem services and management strategies.



"I am very interested to see what other Reef users and land managers are doing to be part of the solution."

Sarina Beaches lychee farmer and keen fisherman,
Tibby Dixon

Ecosystem implementation highlights

- Louisa Creek fish community survey to determine baseline data to assist in prioritisation of system repair works

Agriculture implementation highlights

- Cane farmers have improved the management of soil, nutrients and herbicides on more than 35 ha of intensive cropping land with Reef Rescue support improving their management practices from C Class to A Class
- Graziers have improved pasture management practices on 82 ha of grazing land with Reef Rescue support improving their management practices from C Class to B Class
- Horticulture producers have improved management of soil, nutrients and herbicides on 26 ha of intensive cropping land with Reef Rescue support improving their management practices from C Class to B Class
- Riparian management has been improved on more than 18 ha of the catchment with off-stream watering points installed with Reef Rescue support

Future priorities

Management practices that reduce particulate phosphorus used in grazing will continue to be priority. Management practices that reduce other nutrients and residual herbicides are a moderate priority.

With considerable changes in port and industrial activities in the Sarina Beaches catchment area system repair actions that support and protect current ecosystem services and assets are a priority.



Electrofishing to establish a baseline of fish community species and abundance. Once identified and counted, fish are returned to the stream and fully recover.