

GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS | Ecosystem Repair Project

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THIS SITE? Litter, nutrients and sediments entering the marine environment through the storm water system threaten the integrity and condition of existing native vegetation and habitats in the coastal urban landscape of the Mackay Whitsunday region. In line with the longterm objectives of the Biodiversity Fund, to protect and enhance existing high conservation value areas, this Urban System Repair project has allowed Reef Catchments to fund the installation of three Gross Pollutant Traps (Ecosol Trash Racks) in high gross pollutant load urban catchments in the Whitsunday region (Cannonvale).

WHO'S INVOLVED? This project is a joint initiative between Reef Catchments and the Whitsunday Regional Council, with co-funding through the Australian Government Urban System Repair project.



PROJECT:

GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS, CANNONVALE

BELOW: Reef Catchments NRM region



PROJECT GOALS:

Installation of three urban ecosystem improvement constructions to help protect and enhance existing native vegetation and biodiversity, as well as high conservation value areas for the long-term. Each trap will isolate and retain inorganic material (namely litter) and reduce the amount of organic material (which contains/captures microscopic pollutants) entering the marine environment.



CURRENT ACTIVITY:

This project has seen the successful completed construction of three 'Ecosol Trash Racks' (Gross Pollutant Traps) at sites selected based on upstream influence and records of high gross pollutant outfall. Traps are strategically located downstream of major carriageways (vectors of litter) and in areas of high visibility.



STATUS:

Installation has been completed. Ongoing related activity continues to demonstrate a strong partnership between Reef Catchments, the Whitsunday Regional Council and the wider Whitsunday community.



MOVING FORWARD:

Maintenance requirements, costs and trends will be reviewed annually, as will the effectiveness of the primary treatment tool and its subsequent future application to suitable sites within the Mackay Whitsunday Region. Reef Catchments and the Whitsunday Regional Council have additionally invested in 10 EcoSol Litter Baskets (designed to be located inline with street drains) and are exploring potential basket locations for installation.



GROSS POLLUTANT TRAPS, CANNONVALE | Update 1

Through the Australian Government Reef Programme, Whitsunday Regional Council in partnership with Reef Catchments have installed three gross pollutant traps within the Cannonvale Botanic Gardens precinct to reduce the gross pollutant load entering Pioneer Bay and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Jenny Whitney said Council is pleased to be involved in this great initiative which is helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef from pollution.

"The traps will stop rubbish and heavy metals contained in run off entering Pioneer Bay at Cannonvale Beach, improving the water quality flowing into the Great Barrier Reef," she said.

"This initiative builds on Council's commitment to reducing nutrients and sediment entering the marine park and follows Council's recently completed upgrade of the Cannonvale Sewage Treatment Plant, which now meets the strictest environmental standards for outfall.

"Council has been working alongside Reef Catchments to install these three traps in the Cannonvale Botanic Gardens over the last couple of weeks and is pleased they will reduce gross pollutants by 93%," she said.

Reef Catchments has provided funding for the project through

the Australian Government's Reef Programme, as well as on-ground support to facilitate the construction of the traps.

Mr Adam Folkers, Program Leader Land and Water at Reef Catchments, said the pollutant traps were part of a wider program to improve water quality and reduce the region's environmental impact on the iconic Great Barrier Reef.

"The installation of the traps in Cannonvale will significantly reduce the level of sediment and nutrients (by 40% and 30% respectively) entering Pioneer Bay as well as capturing the vast majority of litter and other gross pollutants travelling within the three targeted waterways," Mr Folkers said.

"Reef Catchments is proud to work with the Whitsunday Regional Council on this initiative to improve the condition of our region's waterways."

The gross pollutant traps are developed by Ecosol Waste Water Filtration Systems and are designed to reduce Gross Pollutants (up to 93% of materials sized >600um); Total Suspended Solids, Phosphorus; Nitrogen and Heavy Metals entering the receiving environment.

This project is a joint initiative of Reef Catchments and Whitsunday Regional Council, through co-funding from Australian Government's Urban System Repair project.

