



# IS IT TIME FOR A CHANGE?

## \$4.4M funding to advance cane practices

**Resources available under Reef Trust 3 for cane growers who are looking to upgrade nutrient and herbicide practices**



### Ever wondered if there were small changes that could make a big difference to your farm's operations?

There's plenty of focus on practice change these days, but without the right support, information and funding it can be difficult to achieve.

Reef Catchments is currently putting the call-out to 250 new growers.

If you have always wanted to improve your efficiencies but are unsure about how to go about it, this round of funding could apply to you.

New funding is available to support cane farmers to take the next step towards practices that are above the industry standard.

Through Reef Trust 3 (RT3), growers will have support, advice and resources to improve nutrient and herbicide management and farm planning.

Focus will be on improving nitrogen use efficiency and reducing off-farm loss of nutrients and herbicides.

Funding provides cane farmers with: access to expert agronomic advice - \$6000 value at no cost to the grower; \$1500 for initial upgrades to specific equipment (listed opposite); and the opportunity to access major grant funding ahead.

Funding is provided through the Australian Government and will be delivered in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region by Reef Catchments, in partnership with CANEGROWERS Mackay, MAPS, Farmacist and Plane Creek Productivity Services Limited (PCPSL).

### What is provided under Reef Trust 3?

- Access to expert agronomic support and advice – one-on-one farm extension services worth \$6000 at no cost to the grower.
- \$1500 worth of upgrades to nutrient and/or herbicide equipment and or activities. This includes – EM mapping, soil testing, leaf analysis, G-dot, SIS, spray nozzles, spray tanks and modification of existing spray equipment.
- Receive an assessment of current farming operations that ID's potential areas of agronomic, environmental and economic improvement.
- Development of nutrient and herbicide management plans for long term financial and land management gains.
- Potential to secure major grants related to improved practice change in the areas of nutrient and herbicide management.



CANEGROWERS  
MACKAY



Australian Government



PHOTOS: Department of Environment.



## About Reef Trust

Over the next three years, \$4.4 million of Australian Government funding is being provided to the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac natural resource management (NRM) region, which extends from Clairview in the South to just below Bowen in the north.

Reef Trust 3 will support 250 cane growers to increase efficiencies and reduce nutrient and herbicide runoff leaving the farm.

The programme aims to improve water quality in the MWI catchment and to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

Growers who undertake planning to transition to above industry standard nutrient and herbicide practices are ideally placed to apply for major nutrient and herbicide funding grants. This can include relevant equipment grants.

Major grants for irrigation equipment and sediment basins do not apply to this programme.

## Who's eligible and how can you be involved?

- Interested growers must be Smartcane BMP registered and have completed their Smartcane BMP self-assessment or be prepared to do so. This is a simple process that can be assisted by your Smartcane BMP facilitator (contact details provided).
- At this stage, growers who have participated in Reef Rescue 2 are not eligible to apply, as funding emphasis is on engaging new growers who have not yet received nutrient and herbicide planning support that was provided as part of Reef Rescue 2. Growers who were involved in Reef Rescue 1, but not in Reef Rescue 2, can still apply.

## Contact

Growers should contact their local farm extension support representative for initial inquiries and to check your eligibility. We look forward to working with you.

### Maps

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### Reef Catchments

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**For Smartcane BMP registration assistance, contact:**

### Mackay and Plane Creek

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RT3 is coordinated by Reef Catchments, with funding through the Australian Government Reef Trust Phase 3 Programme.