# CLIMATE CHANGE

#### REEF CATCHMENTS MACKAY WHITSUNDAY ISAAC



### NRM PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations throughout Australia are being supported by the Australian Government through the Land Sector Package of the Clean Energy Plan to update existing regional NRM Plans to guide mitigation and adaptation for climate change impacts and to best target carbon farming projects to maximise environmental benefits.

Reef Catchments is developing a Climate Action Plan that will identify, in collaboration with regional stakeholders, appropriate actions to mitigate and adapt to the potential impacts of climate change on the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM region.

The Plan will also support updates to the MWI NRM Plan, Water Quality Improvement Plan and Biodiversity Plan.

Regional stakeholders will be invited to participate in forums and workshops to assist in identifying actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts.

Reef Catchments has engaged RPS Australia East Pty Ltd to analyse existing spatial data and develop a series of climate impact maps. These maps will assist in raising awareness and understanding of the likely impacts from sea level rise, increased flood risk and increased intensity of extreme weather events on existing land use and biodiversity in the region.

An example map of current and future flood inundation risk is provided on the following page.

### REEF CATCHMENTS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AIMS TO:

- Identify the trends in marine and terrestrial carbon stores
- Understand and locate the areas in the region at highest risk from impacts associated with climate change
- Collaboratively develop mitigation and adaptation strategies with stakeholders to address regional impacts and identify where these should be located
- Maximise biodiversity outcomes and improve the integrity of existing remnant vegetation as part of an integrated response to climate change
- Identify corridors for linking of remnant habitat and other potential opportunities for revegetation to increase carbon storage
- Identify coastal/ marine migration zones to allow for inland migration of marine (seagrass/ salt marsh) and coastal vegetation communities with sea level rise/ increased storm tide activity
- Identify opportunities to improve socio-economic benefits and resilience in the rural landscape by location of highest value bio-diverse carbon stores that address multiple issues that include: identified hazards; improved connectivity in the landscape and minimising impacts on agricultural land.

For more information contact Reef Catchments Robyn Bell - Climate & Landscapes Systems Coordinator MOBILE 0488 733 121 WEB www.reefcatchments.com.au

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