

Preparing Australian Communities -Local Stream- Nature Based Solutions to Build Regional Resilience

Information Guide and Application Forms

This document contains the following information and forms:

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To register your interest in participating in a fencing project, please read, complete and return the attached Expression of Interest - Page 4.

This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.



Introduction

Reef Catchments Ltd has received funding from the Australian Governments National Recovery and Resilience Agency to undertake the “Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream - Nature Based Solutions to Build Regional Resilience” program (PAC or the project). The project runs from June 2022 to March 2025.

Project objectives

The objectives of the PAC project are to:

- improve the long-term resilience of Australian communities to natural hazards including bushfires, floods and tropical cyclones
- deliver disaster risk reduction projects that reduce hazard exposure or vulnerability and are aligned with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

This project is anticipated to increase the community’s ability to withstand the effects of floods and tropical cyclones in the natural environment by strengthening and repairing natural ecosystems that act as a buffer to the impacts of natural disasters. The project will work across the Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) NRM region.

Project activities

Project activities comprise of:

- A streambank resilience study to increase preparedness and resilience to future tropical cyclone and flood events by identifying at-risk locations and providing an opportunity to intervene early before the next event.
- Creation of a tailored education program focusing on raising awareness towards best practice waterway management. Including the facilitation of a series of workshops, education package and the development of streambank management legacy document, highlighting riparian management and its intrinsic values.
- Installation of riparian fencing infrastructure throughout the region so best management strategies can be implemented leading to a more resilient system capable of mitigating the damage caused by climate driven events.

Riparian fencing grants:

Further details and eligibility requirements for the riparian fencing component of this project are outlined in the attached guidelines.

Riparian Fencing Activity Eligibility Guidelines

Grazing Riparian Fencing Activities

Land Manager must contribute greater than or equal to 60% of total cost

- Grazing (predominately cattle) operation must be located within the boundaries of the Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM region.
- Complete Paddock to Reef questionnaire to capture practice change.

Riparian Fence

The construction of a minimum standard permanent fence to control grazing stock (predominately cattle) access to riparian areas.

- A Riparian Fence controls stock access to watercourses and associated riparian land, while minimising the potential degradation and erosion of riparian land, as well as protecting water quality and instream habitat. Under these guidelines funded fencing must fall no greater than 200 m distance from the closest riparian area.
- Minimum standard: steel/ wooden strainers, steel/ wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, 4 strand wire with plain wire on top or other wildlife-friendly options. See attached Wildlife Friendly Fencing Diagram
- Grant funding is available for up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$6,000/km. Projects will be selected on set criteria at the RCL Project Officers discretion, predominately the ability of the remediation to improve regional streambank resilience and provide protection from extreme events.

Riparian Off-stream watering points

Watering point to provide stock in the newly created paddock with access to water, linked to fencing of riparian areas.

- Construction/purchase and installation of watering point materials and equipment
- Grant funding available up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$7,000 for the installation of the

first watering point (maximum of \$11,000 if a new bore is required). Additional watering points will be funded at up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$2000 for each additional watering point. Projects will be selected on set criteria at the RCL Project Officers discretion, predominately the ability of the remediation to improve regional streambank resilience and provide protection from extreme events.

Riparian Pest Exclusion Fencing Activities

Land Manager must contribute greater than or equal to 60% of total cost

- Must be located within the boundaries of the Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM region.
- Complete Paddock to Reef questionnaire to capture practice change.

Riparian Pest Exclusion Fence

The construction of a minimum standard permanent fence to exclude pests and control stock in riparian areas.

- A Riparian Pest Exclusion Fence constitutes excluding feral animals from directly accessing watercourses and associated riparian land, while minimising the potential degradation and erosion of riparian land, as well as protecting water quality and instream habitat. Under these guidelines funded fencing must fall no greater than 200m distance from the closest riparian area. Minimum standard: steel/ wooden strainers, steel/ wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, mesh wire secured to ground, with plain wire on top or other wildlife-friendly options. See attached Wildlife Friendly Fencing Diagram. Final fence design to also allow access for native wildlife (e.g. turtles).
- Grant funding available up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$7,200/km. Projects will be selected on set criteria at the RCL Project Officers discretion, predominately the ability of the remediation to improve regional streambank resilience and provide protection from extreme events.

Expression of Interest Application

If you are interested in being a part of any of the activities listed below please:

1. Review the relevant eligibility guidelines to ensure participation requirements are met,
2. Tick the activities you are interested in and an estimate of proposed length of fencing ,
3. Fill out your contact and property details,
4. Return this form to Reef Catchments by
 - a. Email to michael.boland@reefcatchments.com or
 - e. Hand to a Reef Catchments Representative or
 - a. Post to PO Box 815, Mackay, Qld, 4740.

A Reef Catchments representative will be in contact to discuss your requirements.

Grazing Activity

- Riparian Stock Control Fencing: Estimated fencing length (metres).....
- Off-stream Watering Points

Pest Exclusion Activity

- Riparian Pest Exclusion Fencing: Estimated fencing length (metres).....

Education Package

- I'd like to receive the free resilience and preparedness education package
- I'd like to be notified on upcoming events and opportunities

- I request that any distributed information from my enterprise remains anonymous

Landholder Applicant Details:

Date:.....

First Name.....
(if applicable)

Surname.....
(if applicable)

Company/Trading Name.....

Position

Email.....

[Continued over...]

Expression of Interest Application contd.

Property Details

(Lots & Plan Number as per rates notice)..... Farm/Property Size

Property Address

Postal Address

Phone No.....

Landholder Planning Details

Have you been involved in any previous programs with Reef Catchments Yes No

If yes, what program?.....

Do you have a property plan developed by Reef Catchments Yes No

If yes, what is your Landholder No..... Job No.....

Grazing Grant Fencing

Minimum Standard for Wildlife Friendly Fence Diagram

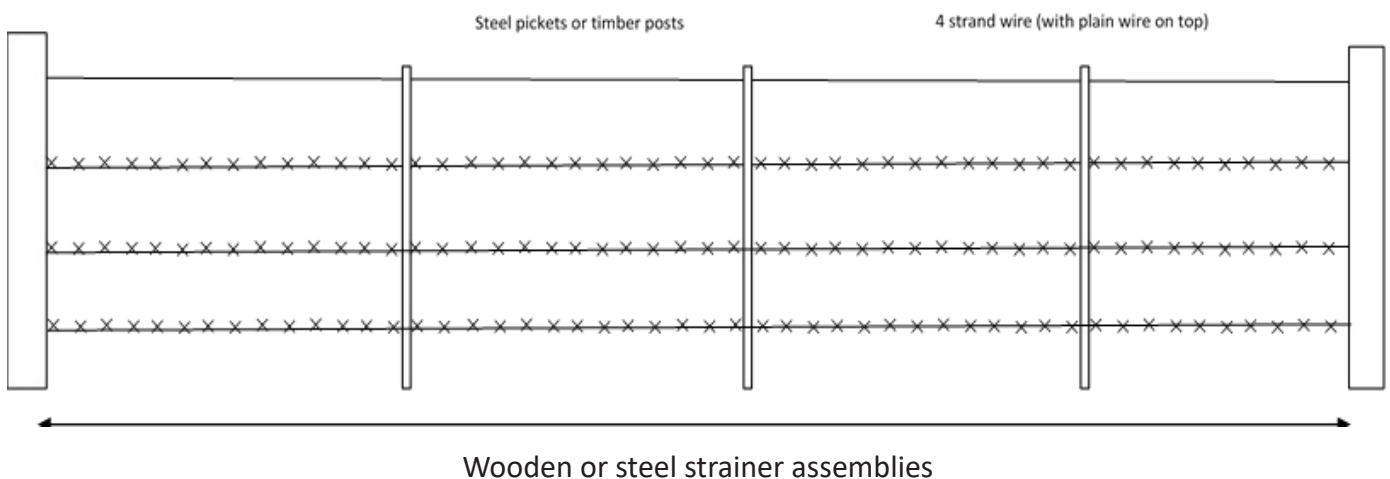
Every year thousands of native animals are caught in barbed wire fences across Australia, leading to permanent injury or death of a range of birds and small animals. Replacing the top barbed wire with a plain strand will drastically reduce the occurrence of animal entanglement.

Through various funding programs, over 200 fencing projects using a plain top wire have been completed in the Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac region with graziers reporting no negative impacts on fence integrity or increased instances of cattle escape.

Even though animals can become entangled on lower barb strands, the use of a top plain wire will minimise the impact that fence has on local wildlife.

Fencing constructed using funding for works under the PAC project must be in accordance with the following guidelines- minimum standard includes wooden or steel strainer assemblies, steel or wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, and 4 strands of wire (with plain wire on top).

See diagram below.



Pest Exclusion Grant Fencing

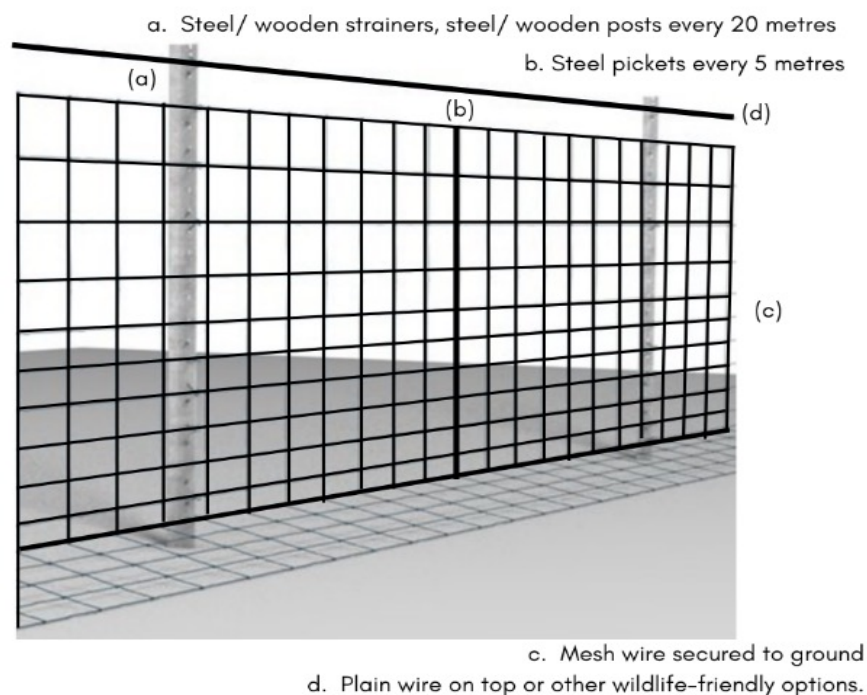
Minimum Standard for Wildlife Friendly Fence Diagram

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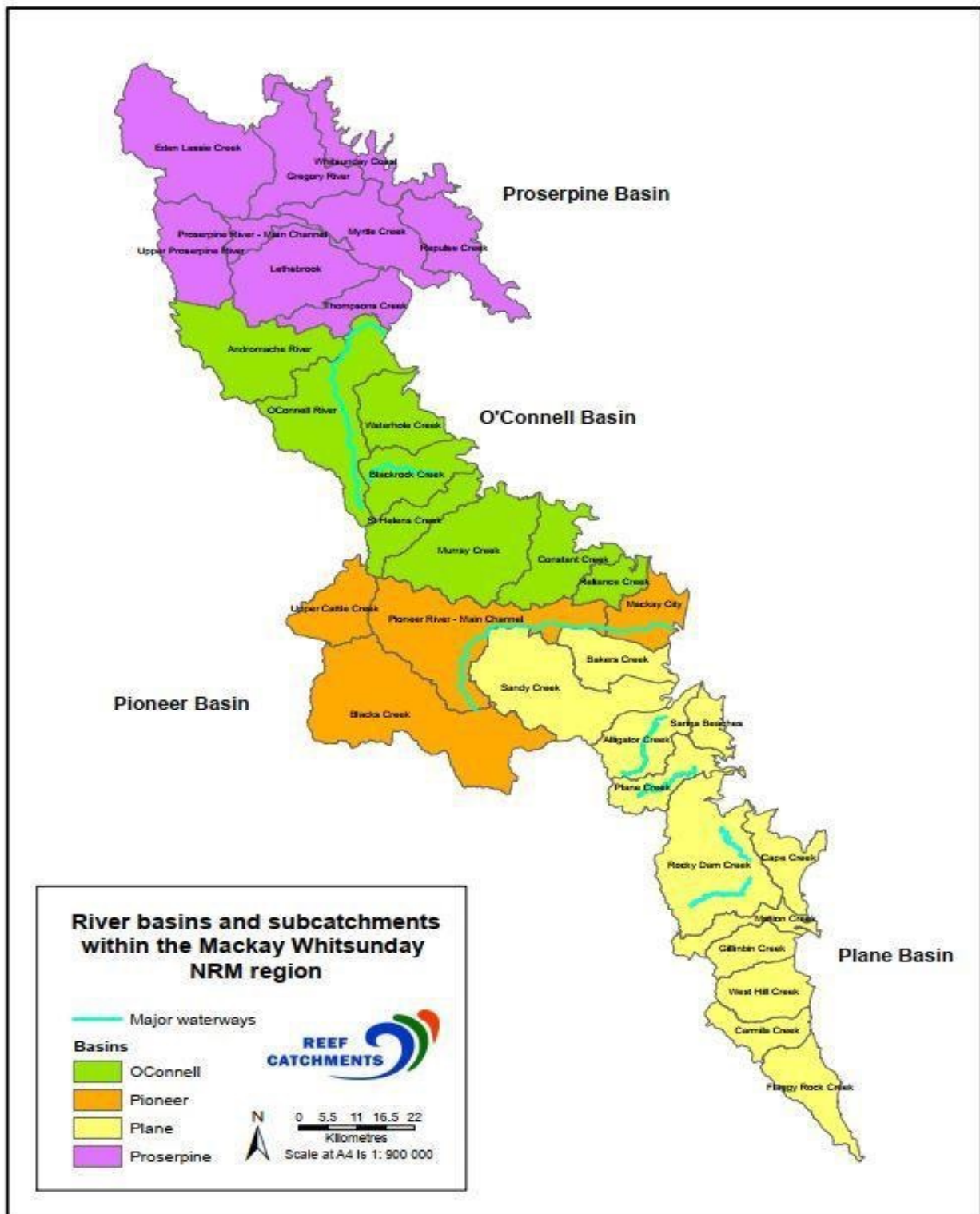
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Exclusion Fencing constructed using funding for works under the PAC Project must be in accordance with the following guidelines- minimum standard includes steel/ wooden strainers, steel/wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets every 5 metres, mesh wire secured to ground, with plain wire on top or other wildlife-friendly options. Final fence design to also allow access for native wildlife (e.g. turtles). See diagram below.



Map of the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM Region Catchments and Sub-Catchments



Photographs, Videos & Recording Footage Permission Form

I hereby grant permission to Reef Catchments Ltd to obtain my photograph / video footage / voice recording and/or other imagery.

I grant Reef Catchments Ltd and its representatives the right to use this material and footage and imagery for educational, publicity, promotional, administrative or research purposes, including for further reproduction, exhibition, display, broadcast and distribution.

I acknowledge that Reef Catchments Ltd owns all rights to the images and recordings.

Name..... **Date**.....

Signature.....

Name..... **Date**.....

Signature.....

Name..... **Date**.....

Parent/Guardian Name (if age under 18)

Signature.....

Landholder Paddock to Reef Benchmarking Data Collection Permission Form

I (please print name)

hereby grant permission to Reef Catchments Ltd to collect information relating to practice change on my property, via initial and final benchmarking using the Paddock to Reef Management Questions.

About Paddock to Reef:

The individual site information collected by the Paddock to Reef program is used only to evaluate the effectiveness of water quality improvement programs. The social indicators are used to gain a greater understanding of what influences landholders to undertake management practice improvements. Both data are kept confidential and secure.

This information cannot be used for any other purpose and is protected under the Queensland Information Privacy Act (2009). This means that the Paddock to Reef program cannot supply the raw site-level data (the reported farm management data) to anyone, for any other purpose. The location of sites where change has been reported are combined into a single file with codes that represent the degree of improvement at the system level. This 'layer' is provided to the Paddock to Reef, Catchment Modelling team, in the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) and DES (see P2R data collection flow diagram), to model water quality improvements.

This layer of information does not contain the site-specific management practices. The results of Paddock to Reef program analysis are combined at the scale of river catchments (e.g. the Tully River catchment) and published annually in a Reef Water Quality Report Card. Individual property data is not published or made public in any other way.

Landholder Applicant Details:

Date:.....

First Name..... Surname.....

Property Description (lot and plan).....

Company/Trading Name (if applicable).....

Position (if applicable).....

Signature