

Sediment reduction in O’Connell targeted as part of \$6.4 million boost for Reef water quality projects.

23 OCTOBER 2023

The Reef Catchments Streambank remediation program will target reduction in sediment run-off from eroded streambanks and gullies, which is a key threat to Reef water quality. The program is one of three new projects in the Mackay Whitsunday, Burnett Mary and Burdekin catchments in northeast Queensland.

Reef Catchments Project Officer, Laura Ferris said the project will help to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef Lagoon in addition to protecting prime agricultural land.

“The project will save an estimated 1,900 tonnes per year of sediment from flowing to the Great Barrier Reef while providing opportunities for local service providers to maintain and enhance their capability for implementing streambank remediation projects.”

The O’Connell catchment is the sixth largest sediment contributor to the Reef, making it a priority region for streambank remediation. The on-ground restoration activities will reduce fine sediment loads and enhance riparian zones, increasing resilience to extreme weather events and seasonal flooding.

The project will be implemented via a range of remediation strategies including construction of engineered designs to repair eroding streambanks and planting trees to revegetate and improve the riparian zones.

This project extends the \$6 million invested in early 2023 through the Queensland Government’s Queensland Reef Water Quality Program across three projects in the Burdekin, Herbert River and Fitzroy River catchments.

Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef, Senator Nita Green said “Through these remediation projects, we are continuing to take responsibility for our actions upstream to safeguard the health of this precious asset and the 64,000 jobs it supports”.

Reef Catchments expects the works to be completed by June 2025 with monitoring extended until 2026.

The O’Connell sites project is part of the Streambank Remediation Program which is a partnership program funded through the Queensland Government’s Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and the Australian Government’s Reef Trust.

ENDS

Media Contact: Carla Lambropoulos – Coordinator Waterways

Mobile: 0408 638 377

Email: Carla.lambropoulos@reefcatchments.com

Reef Catchments
Resilient ecosystems, engaged community
Suite 2, 85 Gordon St, Mackay QLD 4740
Ph: 4968 4200
www.reefcatchments.com.au
