


# Reef Trust VII - O'Connell and Proserpine Basins Water Quality Project

Reef Catchment's Reef Trust VII - O'Connell and Proserpine Basins Water Quality Project aimed to improve the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) lagoon from broad-scale land use and increase the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef. This was achieved through increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.

















 **Project Duration: 2 Years**  
**January 2021 - June 2023**

## Project Targets

- 1 Reduce fine sediment loss from streambank erosion
- 2 Improve the condition of grazing land to increase productivity and reduce fine sediment loss
- 3 Support sugarcane farmers to implement more efficient and sustainable farming practices to increase productivity and reduce dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and pesticide runoff to the surrounding environment
- 4 Promote effective irrigation for water quality and productivity
- 5 Priority support to accelerate sugar cane and grazing best practice adoption and system repair outcomes.

 The project was delivered through multiple components such as streambank remediation and erosion control works, grazing land management support, feral animal control, and one-on-one sugarcane agronomy support. This has provided a holistic approach to achieving the desired water quality outcomes and built local capacity across the O'Connell and Proserpine basins.

## Major Project Achievements

-  Installation of two major engineered streambank sites
-  5.84 km of streambank protected
-  2.21 ha of revegetation
-  16,600 local native tube stock planted
-  2,861.18 t/y fine sediment saved
-  Delivery of the first Mackay Whitsunday Streambank Forum
-  60 sugarcane growers were engaged to carry out 66 sugarcane agronomy support projects and 71 major grants which focused on either nutrient or pesticide management achieved the following savings:  
**1** DIN - 2,479 kg    **2** Pesticide - 17,140 g
-  170 landholders and 112 community members engaged across 15 workshops
-  The MWI Pasture Standards Guide and the Cane ABCD Framework documents were published.
-  Two small gullies remediated
-  5.32km of riparian fencing installed
-  15.93 ha of riparian remediation
-  12.18 ha of weed control
-  Established Bloomsbury Feral Animal Control Aerial Program including **3 aerial shoots**, covering **45,000ha**, removing **59 feral pigs** and **4 wild dogs**.
-  **30 local graziers** participated in grazing land management activities.
-  12 case studies developed to increase landholder awareness and stewardship