# CASE STUDY

JUNE 2023

# Reef Trust VII Overview

## What is Reef Trust VII Grazing

The the aim of the Australian Government's Reef Trust VII Project was to undertake "Targeted support to maximise soil, biodiversity and vegetation outcomes in the O'Connell and Proserpine Basins of the Mackay Whitsundays Region".

The project outcomes;

- reduced fine sediment loss,
- dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and pesticide losses in runoff, and
- improved vegetation and connectivity through increased awareness and adoption of land management practices that enhanced the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation for the O'Connell and Proserpine Basins.

Increasing awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity, and vegetation by 2023 is a medium-term outcome of the Regional Land Partnerships program.

The project will ensure long term outcomes and progress towards water quality targets of the Reef2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.

## Project Overview

The project worked with graziers located in the O'Connell and Proserpine Basin to reduce erosion and improve the condition of soil and vegetation connectivity, to reduce the loss of fine sediments from grazing land to the Reef.

Activities included extension support such as property planning, fencing, strategic positioning of watering points, and pasture and riparian improvement.

Reef Catchments worked closely with local landholders to support continuous improvement in land management practices and increase knowledge and skillsets in the grazing sector to achieve a reduction in fine sediment loss and an overall improvement in water quality.

The Targeted support to maximise soil, biodiversity and vegetation outcomes in the O'Connell and Proserpine basins of the Mackay Whitsunday NRM region Project is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust.

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# Project Outcome

**The primary outcome of the project was that by 2023, there would be an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.**

The project outcome was achieved through a series of activities including;

- Establishing and maintaining grazing grant agreements with 30 landholders within the O'Connell and Proserpine Basin to support improvements in grazing land management practices.
- Improved practices implemented across over a 1,000 Hectares of grazing land. The development of 30 Farm-plans in support of landholders participating in the grant program.
- Shared knowledge through 4 case studies, providing information on landholder's personal experiences implementing practices such 'Improving Pastures' and 'Converting Cane to Grazing', along with 'On-farm Biosecurity' information and overview of the 'Reef Trust IIV Project'.
- Facilitated community engagement to increase knowledge and skillsets regarding improvement in land management practices through 4 workshops, including;
  - Grazing Naturally Fundamentals with Dick Richardson
  - Establishment and Performance of Pastures with DAF, AgriMix Pastures & Barenbrug
  - Grazing Land Management Workshop with John Day & Geoff Titmarsh
  - Field Demonstration of Composted Organics with AJK Contracting & LAYONSCAPES

## Monitoring Tools

Two key tools used to measure and monitor improved practice changes are:

**Land Condition Assessment Tool**

The land condition assessment tool (LCAT) is a simple and rapid, science-based method suitable for determining land condition in the perennially dominated vegetation communities. The assessment framework comprises a series of questions that represent a minimum set of long-term land condition indicators and corresponding indicator values related to Grazing Land Management (GLM) ABCD framework.

**Paddock to Reef Survey**

Measures adoption of improved management practices and is reported using industry and regional specific management practice frameworks (water quality risk frameworks). The management practice adoption component of the Paddock to Reef develops estimates of management practice benchmarks and changes for the major agricultural industries including Sugarcane, Grazing, Horticulture, Grains and Bananas.

## Further Information

For further information on how you can become involved in a project, contact Reef Catchments and follow us on social media for the latest information on what is available in your area.


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