

Information for Landholders, Stakeholders and Contractors:

# The Mackay Whitsunday Regional Landscape Repair Program

## About the Mackay Whitsunday Regional Landscape Repair Program

The *Mackay Whitsunday Regional Landscape Repair Program* aims to deliver landscape scale improvement in priority catchments through restoration of eroding gully systems, rehabilitation of streambanks and improved groundcover through grazing land management to reduce fine sediment export to the Great Barrier Reef (GBR).

The program is part of the larger \$200 million Landscape Repair Program launched by the Australian Government-Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) in December 2023. The long-term outcome of this program is to remediate priority landscapes across the GBR catchments by using proven approaches to improve water quality, build resilience and ecological functions.

The *Mackay Whitsunday Regional Landscape Repair Program* will run until **30th June 2030** with total funding of over **\$26 million** dedicated to reducing fine sediment export to the region.

Outcomes the program will achieve by 2030 includes:

1. Landscape remediation of priority locations results in the cost-effective reduction of an estimated 18,000 t/yr of fine sediment from reaching the GBR Lagoon.
2. Capacity, capability and willingness to adopt and maintain appropriate land management practices increases across the GBR regions.
3. Participation of First Nations people in project design, delivery, maintenance and monitoring of Reef water quality projects increases across the GBR regions.
4. Landscape remediation sites have been maintained to support the longevity of water quality outcomes.

## Water Quality Pollution Target

Fine sediment linked to erosion from paddocks, gullies, and streambanks will be targeted for this project, focusing on sites exporting high volumes of fine sediment to the GBR Lagoon. This program aims to achieve a fine sediment reduction of **18,000t by 2030** to improve water quality outcomes for our catchments and, hence, the long-term resilience of the Reef.

This is part of the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan. Scan the QR code for more info, or visit: [www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/great-barrier-reef/protecting/our-investments/improving-water-quality](http://www.dcceew.gov.au/parks-heritage/great-barrier-reef/protecting/our-investments/improving-water-quality)



## How will we achieve this?

The approach and plan to achieve the sediment reduction target has been guided and generated by external data. Including the Australian and Queensland Government's *Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring Modelling and Reporting Program* as well as internal priority reports and existing databases collected by Reef Catchments previous projects.

The project will be implemented via a collaborative Consortium with structured governance and delivery arrangements. Governance will be overseen by a Steering Committee, ensuring high-level supervision, while a Working Group consisting of regional experts will facilitate coordination and timely project execution. Reef Catchments has established a Technical Assurance Group (TAG) to support the project. The TAG guides and supports the project at various stages including governance structure, planning, monitoring, maintenance requirements, site selection, and work designs.

Delivery arrangements will be orchestrated through our local existing delivery partners and landholders with a focus on increasing local capacity and ability to implement restoration activities. This process will result in direct investment into the region with opportunities to support the local economy and community prosperity.

## Opportunities for Landholders

Landholders will have access to opportunities to improve their property, including:

- Streambank erosion restorations work
- Grants for Grazing Land Management activities
- Grants for Riparian Fencing & weed control; and
- Riparian Revegetation

Activities will be focussed into targeted priority areas, or sub-basins, which align with *The Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan*.

Reef Catchments has developed a selection criteria to determine eligibility for this project. Eligible works will be informed by sediment loss data, remediation cost and overall cost effectiveness of works. Works will aim to also improve environmental resilience and grazing land management across the catchment. Landholders are likely to be approached if their site is suitable for selection.

Activities will be tailored to the individual property to acknowledge landholder needs and preferences. If you are interested in participating in the program of hearing about your properties potential to be involved please reach out to the contacts below.

## Opportunities for Local Businesses

Over the duration of the project there will be opportunities for suppliers, contractors and service providers to work with Reef Catchments to achieve these goals.

If you think you or your business can help or you are interested in finding out more please contact us.

### Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like a conversation, please contact the Reef Catchments Waterways Team.

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