

Media Release

Reef Trust Landscape Repair Program Unveils \$26 Million Initiative to Curb Sediment Runoff and Protect the Great Barrier Reef

For Immediate Release

Reef Catchments will lead the delivery of the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac (MWI) Landscape Repair Program, investing \$26 million in water quality initiatives aimed at reducing 18 kilotonnes of fine sediment runoff into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon by June 2030.

The Reef Trust Landscape Repair Program, backed by \$200 million from the Australian Government, aims to prevent over 130 kilotonnes of fine sediment from reaching the Great Barrier Reef (GBR). This reduction is crucial in protecting the GBR's ecosystem and improving water quality. The initiative will be delivered by six natural resource management (NRM) regions along the Queensland coast in collaboration with local contractors, First Nations groups, landholders and local communities.

Activities proven to reduce fine sediment export will be targeted, including the restoration of eroding gully systems, rehabilitation of stream banks, and grazing land management (GLM) to improve groundcover.

Priority sites will be identified based on cost-effectiveness to deliver fine sediment savings to the GBR.

These on-ground restoration efforts will remediate riparian areas to enhance their biodiversity, health, and connectivity. Healthy riparian zones have a higher capacity to handle floodwaters, therefore reducing downstream sediment impacts during storm events. By repairing and stabilising the landscape, the program will significantly reduce the amount of fine sediment flowing into the GBR.

Another outcome of this program is to improve local capacity by developing local skills and knowledge to achieve sustainable outcomes into the future. The program will prioritise investment in local contractors, companies, landholders and stakeholders to build a consortium of delivery partners working effectively to improve local water quality. This includes promoting First Nations connection to priority landscapes by supporting procurement of First Nations-owned and operated businesses, and providing a contribution to positive environmental, social, and economic outcomes for the MWI region.

The Reef Trust Landscape Repair Program represents a scaling-up of remediation investment and is part of the Australian Government's \$1.2 billion investment to accelerate actions to support the GBR long-term resilience and protect its future.

For additional details about the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac (MWI) Landscape Repair Program, contact us or visit the Reef Catchments website (www.reefcatchments.com.au).

This project is funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust.

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About Reef Catchments

Reef Catchments are the Natural Resource Management (NRM) group for the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region.

We facilitate change and work for long-term solutions to sustain, protect, and improve our region's natural resources and environment, now and into the future.

Our team are skilled and outcome-focused people, all dedicated to looking after the environment in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region.

For more information: www.reefcatchments.com.au