



Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund | Continuing the Path to Regional Resilience | Advancing Nature-Based Solutions



Reef Catchments would like to respectfully acknowledge the seven Nations whose Traditional lands overlap the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Natural Resource Area (NRM). These are: Juru, Ngaro, Gia, Yuwibara, Widi, Barada and Koinjmal.

Information Guide and Application Forms

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Please note that this is a time limited offer, please submit your completed Expression of Interest early to ensure consideration of your application. Not all applications may be successful.



Introduction

Reef Catchments Ltd has received funding from the Queensland Governments Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund to undertake the “Continuing the Path to Regional Resilience: Advancing Nature-based Solutions” program (QRRRF or the project). The project runs from **August 2024**.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the QRRRF program are to:

- Improve the protection of riparian, wetland and coastal vegetation areas to reduce the potential for erosion
- Deliver disaster risk reduction projects that reduce hazard exposure or vulnerability and are aligned with the recommendations of the Queensland Resilience and Risk Reduction Fund

This project is anticipated to increase the community’s ability to withstand the effects of floods and tropical cyclones in the natural environment by strengthening and repairing natural ecosystems that act as a buffer to the impacts of natural disasters. The project will work across the Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac) NRM region.

Project Activities

Project activities include:

- Installation of riparian, wetland and coastal vegetation fencing infrastructure throughout the region so best management strategies can be implemented leading to a more resilient system capable of mitigating the damage caused by climate driven events.

Riparian fencing

- A Riparian Fence controls stock access to watercourses and associated riparian (rivers, creeks & streams) areas, while minimising the potential degradation and erosion, as well as protecting water quality and instream habitat.

Wetlands Fencing

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- A wetlands fence controls access to areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. It helps to preserve delicate wetland ecosystems, maintain water quality, and ensures sustainability of these vital areas for both the environment and the community. Setting the fence further back reduces the risk of flood damage to the infrastructure.

Coastal Fencing

- A coastal fence controls stock and public access to reduce trampling of vegetation (seagrass, salt marshes & mangroves) along the seaward edge of the dunes. Fencing these areas can help stabilise the foredunes and will extend the dune habitat.

Conditions of the funding

- **Land Manager must contribute greater than or equal to 60% of total cost.**
- **Grazing operation must be located within the boundaries of the Reef Catchments Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM region.**
- **Under these guidelines funded fencing must fall no greater than 300 m distance from the closest riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation area.**

Riparian Fencing Activity Eligibility Guidelines

Riparian, Wetlands, Coastal Vegetation Stock Control Fencing Activities

The construction of a minimum standard permanent fence to control stock access to riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas.

- Minimum standard: steel/wooden strainers, steel/wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, 4 strand wire with plain wire on top or other wildlife-friendly options. See attached Wildlife Friendly-Fencing Diagram.
- Grant funding is available for up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$6,000/km. Projects will be selected on set criteria at the RCL discretion, with preference for fencing sites that provide high likelihood of achieving remediation to improve resilience for riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas and provide protection from extreme events.

Riparian, Wetlands, Coastal Vegetation Pest Exclusion Fencing Activities

The construction of a minimum standard permanent fence to exclude pests and control stock in riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas.

- A Pest Exclusion Fence constitutes excluding feral animals from directly accessing watercourses and associated riparian land, while minimising the potential degradation and erosion of riparian/ coastal/ wetlands areas, as well as protecting water quality and instream habitat.
- Minimum standard: steel/wooden strainer, steel/wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, mesh wire secured to ground, with plain wire on top or other wildlife-friendly options. See attached Wildlife-Friendly Fencing Diagram. Final fence design to also allow access for native wildlife (e.g. turtles).
- Grant Funding available up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$7,200/km. Projects will be selected on set criteria at RCL discretion, predominately the ability of the remediation to improve resilience for riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas and provide protection from extreme events.

Riparian, Wetlands, Coastal Vegetation Permanent Electric Fencing Activities

The construction of a minimum standard permanent fence to exclude pests and control stock in riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas.

- Permanent electric fencing controls access to watercourses and associated riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation land, while minimising the potential degradation and erosion, as well as protecting water quality and instream habitat.
- Minimum standard: steel/ wooden post insulators, steel/ wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, 3 electric strands for cattle/ 5 electric strands for pigs, sheep, goats.
- Grant Funding available up to 40% of total cost to a maximum of \$4,000/km. Projects will be selected on set criteria at the RCL discretion, predominately the ability of the remediation to improve resilience for riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas and provide protection from extreme events.

Expression of Interest Application

If you are interested in being a part of any of the activities listed below, please:

1. Review the relevant eligibility guidelines to ensure participation requirements are met,
2. Tick the activities you are interested in and an estimate of proposed length of fencing and proposed total cost,
3. Fill out your contact and property details,
4. Return this form to Reef Catchments by
 - a. Email to kimberley.bland@reefcatchments.com or
 - b. Drop off to a Reef Catchments Office (Mackay or Proserpine) or
 - c. Post to PO Box 815, Mackay, QLD, 4740.
5. After your submission has been received and assessed, a Reef Catchments Representative will be in contact to discuss your application.

Landholder Application Details:

First Name _____ Date: _____

Surname _____

Company/ Trading Name _____

Position (if applicable) _____

Email _____

Property Details

(Lots & Plan Number as per rates notice) _____ Farm/

Property Size _____

Property Address _____

Postal Address _____

Phone No _____

Have you been involved in any previous programs with Reef Catchments

☐

No

☐

Yes

If yes, what program?

Do you have a property plan developed by Reef Catchments or any other organisation?

- ☐ No, not interested
- ☐ No, but interested in potentially working with Reef Catchments in the future to create one
- ☐ Yes, through Reef Catchments
- ☐ Yes, through another organisation but willing to share with Reef Catchments
- ☐ Yes, someone else but unwilling to share with Reef Catchments

What fencing support are you applying for?

- ☐ Stock Control Fencing and I will construct it in accordance with the directions provided on page 7

Estimated fencing length (metres)

Estimated total fencing cost \$

Requested Grant Funding contribution to fencing (max 40% of total) \$

- ☐ Pest Control Fencing and I will construct it in accordance with the directions provided on page 8

Estimated fencing length (metres)

Estimated fencing cost \$

Requested Grant Funding contribution to fencing (max 40% of total) \$

- ☐ Permanent Electric Fencing and I will construct it in accordance with the directions provided on page 9

Estimated fencing length (metres)

Estimated fencing cost \$

Requested Grant Funding contribution to fencing (max 40% of total) \$



When you plan on installing the fencing

Do you have a preferred contractor or supplier

☐ I request that any distributed information from my enterprise remains anonymous. or

☐ I approve, completed and attached the photographs, footage and video permission form as part of my application

Stock Control Fencing

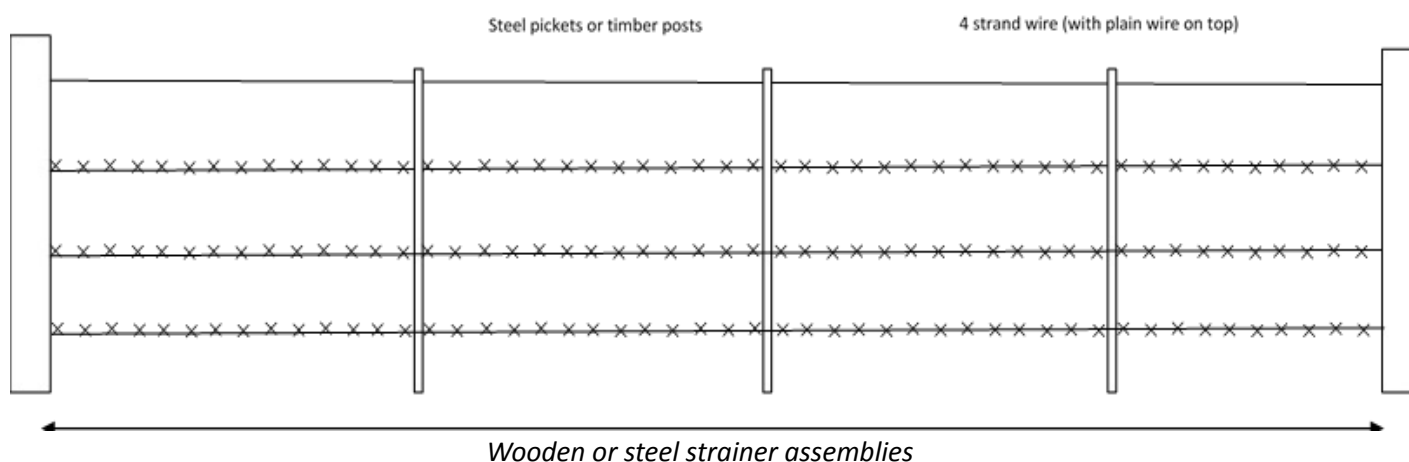
Minimum Standard for Wildlife-Friendly Fence Diagram

Every year thousands of native animals are caught in barbed wire fences across Australia, leading to permanent injury or death of a range of birds and small animals. Fences, especially around high wildlife traffic areas including wetlands and riparian areas; are very susceptible to animal entanglement. Animal entanglement can be very distressing to see, as well as ruining the efficacy of the fence itself.

Replacing the top barbed wire with a plain strand has been proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of animal entanglement. Through various funding programs, over 200 fencing projects using a plain top wire have been completed in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region with graziers reporting no negative impacts on fence integrity or increased instances of cattle escape.

All fencing constructed using funding for works under the QRRRF project must be in accordance with the following guidelines- minimum standard includes wooden or steel strainer assemblies, steel or wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, and 4 strands of wire (with plain wire on top).

See diagram below.



Pest Exclusion Fencing

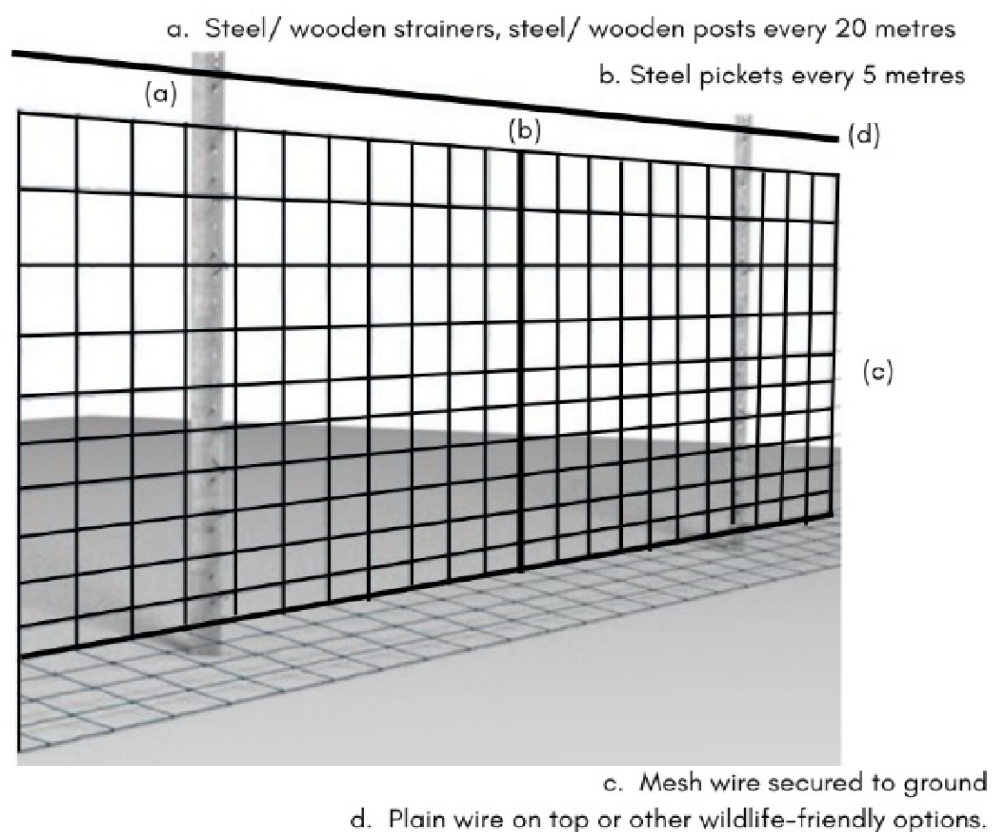
Minimum Standard for Wildlife-Friendly Fence Diagram

Mesh exclusion fencing shown below is to prevent pests such as feral pigs, and dogs from getting to the riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas. If left unprotected, it allows them to wallow and root around the waterline, this destroys the riparian vegetation that provides food and nesting sites for native wildlife and helps to prevent soil erosion. The water quality can also be affected, and the diggings can spread undesirable plant and animal species, and plant diseases in the area.

Adding the plain wire along the top is proven to reduce the occurrence of animal entanglement, providing a more wildlife-friendly fence.

Exclusion fencing constructed using funding for works under the QRRRF project must be in accordance with the following guidelines- minimum standard includes steel/ wooden strainers, steel/ wooden posts every 20 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 5 metres, mesh wire secured to the ground, with plain wire on top or other wildlife-friendly options. Final fence design to also allow access for native wildlife (e.g. turtles).

See diagram below.



Electric Fencing

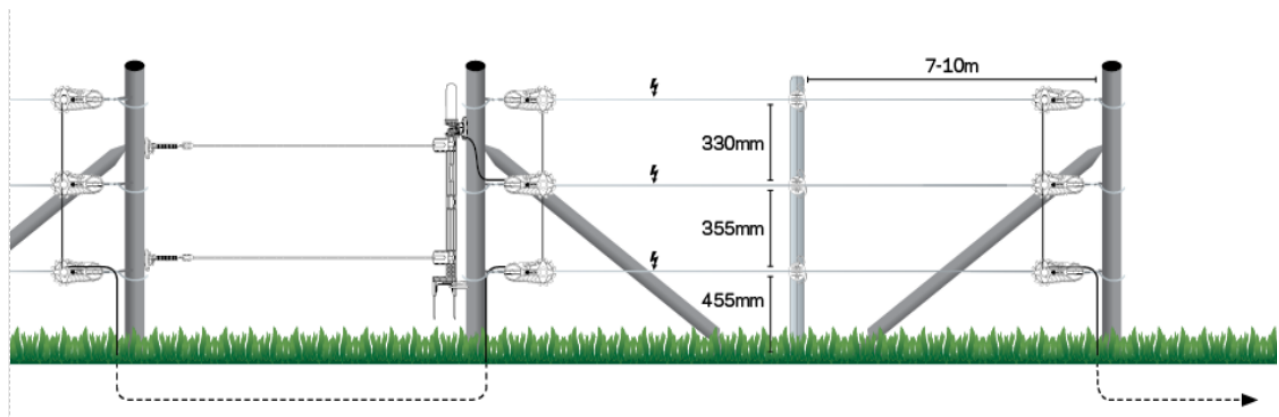
Minimum Standard for Wildlife-Friendly Fence Diagram

Electric fencing is preferred, when possible, for wildlife as it allows the flying and gliding animals generally only touch to the top electrified wire and are not grounded, and any terrestrial animals can choose to move away from the fence.

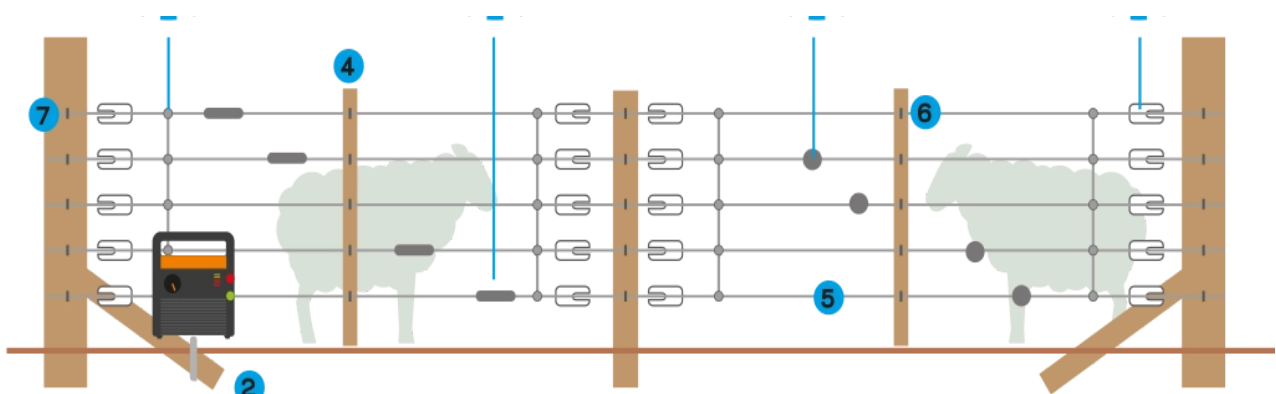
Electric fencing can be used for stock control to the riparian, wetland or coastal vegetation areas. This helps minimise the potential degradation and erosion, as well as protecting water quality and instream habitat

Electric fencing constructed using funding for works under the QRRRF project must be in accordance with the following guidelines- minimum standard includes steel/ wooden post insulators, steel/ wooden posts every 24 metres, steel pickets (or wooden running posts) every 8 metres, 3 electric strands for cattle/ 5 electric strands for pigs, sheep, goats.

See diagrams below.



3-Strand standard



5-Strand standard

Map of the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM Region



Photographs, Videos & Recording Footage

Permission Form

I hereby grant permission to Reef Catchments Ltd to obtain my photograph / video footage / voice recording and/or other imagery.

I grant Reef Catchments Ltd and its representatives the right to use this material and footage and imagery for educational, publicity, promotional, administrative or research purposes, including further reproduction, exhibition, display, broadcast and distribution.

I acknowledge that Reef Catchments Ltd owns all rights to the images and recordings.

Date _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name (If age under 18) _____

Signature _____

Please add other people below as required.

Landholder Paddock to Reef Benchmarking Data

Collection Permission Form

I _____ (please print name) hereby grant permission to Reef Catchments Ltd to collect information relating to practice change on my property _____ (address), via initial and final benchmarking using the Paddock to Reef Management Questions.

About Paddock to Reef:

The individual site information collected by the Paddock to Reef program is used only to evaluate the effectiveness of water quality improvement programs. The social indicators are used to gain a greater understanding of what influences landholders to undertake management practice improvements. Both data are kept confidential and secure. This information cannot be used for any other purpose and is protected under the Queensland Information Privacy Act (2009). This means that Paddock to Reef program cannot supply the raw site-level data (the reported farm management data) to anyone, for any other purpose. The location of sites where change has been reported are combined into a single file with codes that represent the degree of improvement at the system level. This 'layer' is provided to the Paddock to Reef, Catchment Modelling team, in the Queensland Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRME) and DES (see P2R data collection flow diagram), to model water quality improvements. This layer of information does not contain the site-specific management practices. The results of Paddock to Reef program analysis are combined at the scale of river catchments (e.g. the Pioneer River catchment) and published annually in a Reef Water Quality Report Card. Individual property data is not published or made public in any other way.

Landholder Applicant Details:

Date _____

First Name _____ Surname _____

Property Description (lot and plan) _____

Company/Trading Name (if applicable) _____

Position (if applicable) _____

Signature _____