

# Reef Trust Partnership Lower Herbert Regional Plan

Version 2: 20 October 2021

## ***Water Quality Programs***



Australian Government



Great Barrier  
Reef Foundation

# Table of Contents

- 1. Overview..... 2
- 2. Background..... 2
- 3. The Program key documents ..... 3
- 4. Objective and Scope ..... 4
- 5. Program Governance ..... 5
- 6. Program Linkages..... 6
- 7. Regional Overview ..... 8
- 8. Program Design ..... 9
  - Program logic..... 9
  - Budget..... 10
  - Program activities ..... 10
    - Activities that improve land management practices and stewardship ..... 10
      - Activity 1: Improved mill mud application methods ..... 10
      - Activity 2: Extension support for improved nitrogen fertiliser management..... 10
      - Activity 4: Reef Credits ..... 11
      - Activity 5: Grower Incentive Grants ..... 11
    - Activities that involve Traditional Owners ..... 12
    - Innovation activities ..... 12
    - Projects linkages and expected DIN load reductions ..... 13
    - Future opportunities ..... 13
- 9. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement..... 13
- 10. Monitoring and Evaluation..... 15
- 11. Work Plan..... 15
- 12. Glossary and Acronyms..... 16
- 13. References..... 17
- 14. Appendixes ..... 18
  - 1. Lower Herbert Water Quality Program - Steering Committee Terms of Reference ..... 18
  - 2. Portfolio of Projects..... 22
  - 3. Program Annual Work Plan 2021-2022 ..... 28

## 1. Overview

As part of the Reef Trust Partnership (the Partnership), the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), in collaboration with a number of partners, is implementing a series of regional programs aimed at improving the quality of water entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from neighbouring catchments.

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program (Program) aims to improve the quality of water flowing from the Herbert River catchment. A total of \$16.2 million has been allocated under the Partnership to the Program with approximately \$13.5 million to be allocated to on-ground projects in the first instance.

This Regional Plan describes the framework and activities underpinning the composition and subsequent implementation of the Program. The plan sets out:

- the objectives and scope of the Program
- the governance arrangements
- an overview of the key actions proposed under the Program, and
- the proposed approach to communications and engagement, including opportunities for stakeholders to be involved in the Program.

## 2. Background

The Partnership, which was established by the Australian Government and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF), is centred on a landmark investment of \$443.3 million to build the resilience of the Great Barrier Reef (the Reef). Commencing in July 2018 and running for six years, the Partnership includes an investment of \$201 million to address water quality improvement targets impacting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

The approach to investing the \$201 million for water quality improvement is identified in the Annual Work Plan for 2019-20 and allocates:

- \$141 million for regionally focussed on-ground actions
- \$20 million for Traditional Owner-led water quality improvements
- \$10 million for innovation and system change, and
- \$10 million for protection and conservation measures aimed at maintaining water quality, particularly in less disturbed catchments.

In addition, \$19.7 million was contracted under the Reef Water Quality Improvement Grant Program Stage 1.

The \$141 million for regionally focussed on-ground actions will be delivered through a series of regional programs, including the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program, targeting catchments identified by GBRF as a priority for water quality improvement. Regional priorities for investment have been guided by, amongst other factors, the priorities set out in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022 and informed by a consultancy undertaken by Alluvium Consulting (available [here](#)). Further detail on the various plans related to the Partnership, including the Investment Strategy, Annual Work Plan, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, are available [here](#).

For each regional program, the GBRF has identified:

- **Priority catchments** and **target pollutants** based on a prioritisation process undertaken by GBRF that was underpinned by the Reef 2050 WQIP and informed by the Alluvium Report.
- **Target load reductions** for the target pollutants at the end of the catchment.

These targets are the intended load reduction at the end of the catchment to be achieved by the investment under the Partnership and are set out in the [Partnership Monitoring and Evaluation Plan](#).

The Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022 has set a water quality target of 620 tonnes/year DIN load reduction at the end of catchment by 2025 for the Herbert River catchment. This Program aims to contribute towards this target by reducing 140 tonnes/year DIN, primarily by improving farm management practices from D and C level to B level (Sugarcane Water Quality Risk Framework).

The process to set up the Program has involved an open call for expressions of interest to identify potential partners and interventions and subsequently designing detailed Program components and identifying synergies, partnership opportunities, Program gaps and cross-cutting requirements. A summary of the timeline of the procurement process is presented in Figure 1.

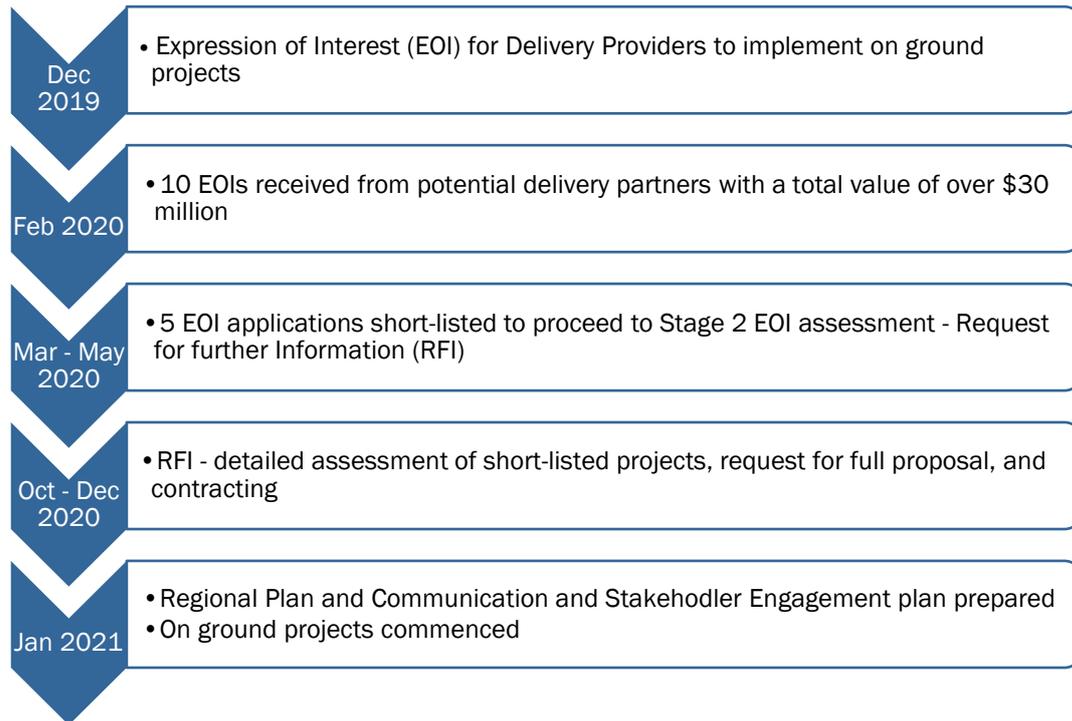


Figure 1. Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Procurement Process.

### 3. The Program key documents

*This Regional Plan establishes the strategies and activities that will be implemented by the Program and is complemented by a Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Figure 2). These three key documents provide the framework for the management and integration of Herbert projects, tracking of Program and project progress, evaluation of the Program, and for communicating and engaging with key stakeholders.*

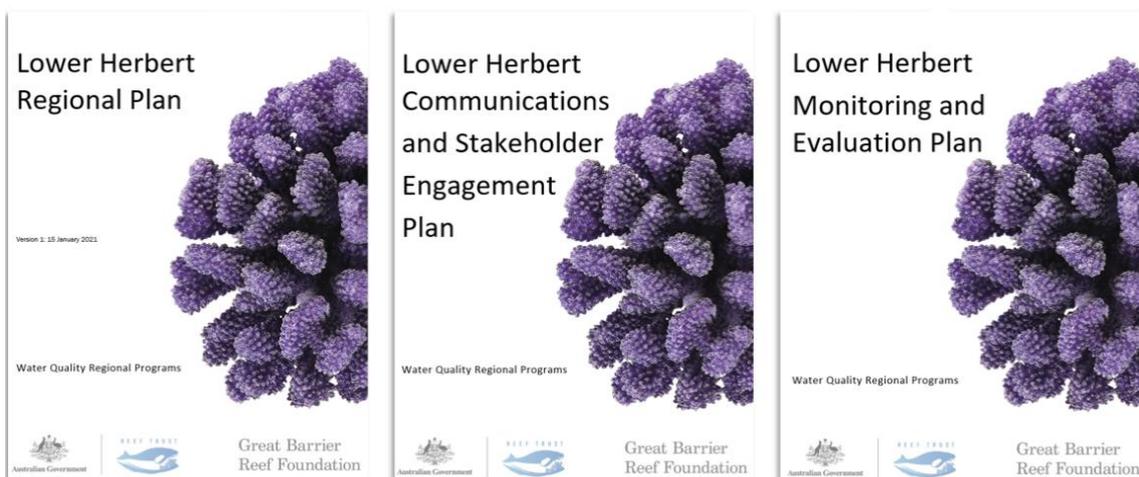


Figure 2. Key documents of the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program.

## 4. Objective and Scope

The primary objective of this Program is to increase Herbert grower commitment to improve nutrient management practices, with a focus on dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and achieve an enduring reduction in the long-term end-of-catchment DIN load of 140 tonnes by June 2024.

The additional objectives of the Program are:

- Provide extension support and financial incentives to adopt improved management practices
- Leverage on synergies with the RTP Innovation program to introduce new solutions and innovative models for increasing knowledge in water quality issues and system change
- Leverage on synergies with the new fine-scale Herbert WQ monitoring program to complement water quality data gaps
- Achieve an enduring reduction in the long-term end-of-catchment pesticide loads
- Increase the number of Smartcane BMP accredited grower's in the Herbert by June 2024
- Increase the productivity and profitability of sugarcane businesses in the Herbert River catchment
- Have no net decrease in sugarcane land area in the Lower Herbert River catchment

The geographical scope of this Program is the Lower Herbert River catchment where sugarcane is the predominant agricultural land use. The area of sugarcane farming land is 68 000 hectares, and this Program will be addressing DIN sourced from these lands. The Program commenced late in 2020 and will conclude 30 June 2024.

## 5. Program Governance

The governance and contractual arrangements for the Herbert Program are shown in Figure 3. The Program involves:

- The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF): manages and oversees the planning and implementation of the Program including an internally appointed Program Manager to work in collaboration with the Regional Partnership Coordinator. GBRF contracts the Regional Partnership Coordinator directly via a Consultancy Agreement.
- The Regional Partnership Coordinator supports the design and implementation of the Program and leads engagement and coordination activities and provides support to participating growers and delivery providers. Canegrowers Herbert River has been appointed as the Regional Partnership Coordinator, employing a Program Coordinator and Communications Manager to deliver the Program.
- Delivery Providers: implement individual water quality improvement projects as part of the Regional Program. They will liaise directly with the growers to enable and achieve the water quality outcomes of the program. GBRF will contract each Delivery Provider directly, via a deed of grant.
- Technical Advisory Group – a pool of experts providing guidance to various elements of the Program including assessment, verification, analysis, and integration of technical, economic/financial, and social aspects of the Program. GBRF leads the Technical Advisory Group.
- The Program is overseen by a Program Steering Committee, which is chaired by GBRF and includes representatives from the RTP Water Quality Working Group and Canegrowers Herbert River. The Program Coordinator participates in and provides the secretariat function for the Program Steering Committee. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Program Steering Committee are included (Appendix 1).

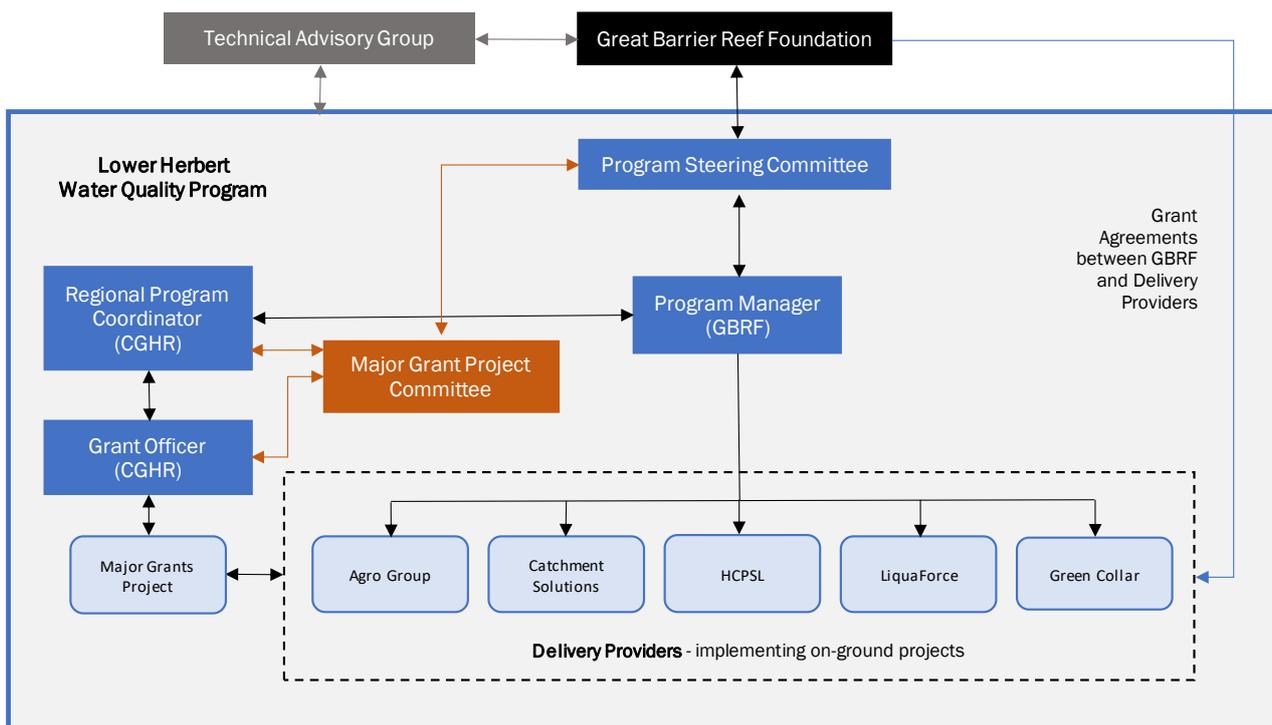


Figure 3. Governance arrangements for the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program.

## 6. Program Linkages

This Program has linkages with other Queensland and Australian Government programs that support the implementation of the Reef 2050 WQ Plan as illustrated in Figure 4. The two projects below, being delivered concurrently with the Program, complement the Program and are being effectively integrated where possible:

***Fine-scale Water Quality Monitoring in High Priority Catchments Project*** (RP232). Funding has been allocated by the Department of Environment and Science's Reef Water Quality Science Program to the Water Quality and Investigations team to expand their real-time monitoring network in North Queensland. Up to 40 additional nitrate and sediment sensors are being installed at locations throughout high priority catchments to support community awareness of water quality issues and improved Paddock to Reef modelling. Currently, the priority catchments are the Herbert and Lower Burdekin, as indicated in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan. Those sensors are being installed from late 2020 through to early 2021. Communicating the results of this project, and their implications for downstream ecosystems, to Lower Herbert River growers will be integral to this Program for encouraging involvement in Program projects and promoting achievement of the Program objective. The data from the monitoring sites can be viewed at [1622.farm](http://1622.farm). The current completion date for this project is June 2022.

***Fish Homes and Highways Project*** is a Reef Trust VII funded by the Australian Government (\$5 Million) and will be delivered by Terrain NRM. This project will focus on improving the condition of upstream wetland and nursery areas and on removing barriers that stop juvenile fish moving from spawning areas in the estuaries to nursery areas upstream. This project will be conducted in the Murray and Lower Herbert River catchments. This project complements this Program as an innovative solution involving sugarcane growers in the Lower Herbert for system change. The completion date for this project is June 2023.

The two projects below contributed to the capacity of the Lower Herbert sugar industry to undertake the current Program and associated Projects:

***The Wet Tropics Sugar Industry Partnership (WTSIP)*** (2014-2020). WTSIP was an alliance of 17 organisations including industry bodies, millers, natural resource management, sugar research, productivity services and government organisations. The goal of WTSIP was to work together to share knowledge and coordinate water quality projects across the region. Between 2016-2020 WTSIP worked together on the delivery of reef water quality programs funded by the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. These were focused on providing extension services and nutrient management planning to sugarcane growers across the region. This contributed to the current capacity (personnel and processes) of the Lower Herbert River sugarcane industry.

***Tailored nutrient and farm management solutions for the Herbert Catchment area*** (RP210) (2019 - 2021) is a Queensland Department of Environment and Science (DES) funded project managed by the Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd (HCPSL). This project aims to work with sugarcane growers in the Herbert Catchment area to improve land management practices that lead to improvements in water quality outcomes specific to nutrient, sediment and pesticide loads leaving their farm. The project upskills cane growers to enable them to make better informed decisions concerning nutrient and farm management practices that will lead to positive productivity and environmental outcomes. This project is nearing completion and has contributed to the capacity (personnel and processes) to complete this Program. The completion date for RP210 is 29 October 2021.

The following plan and project support delivery of the Lower Herbert Program:

***The Wet Tropics Plan for People and Country*** has been developed in accordance with the Queensland NRM Planning Guidelines and the Australian Government NRM Planning Principles by terrain NRM. It is a community-based plan which prioritises natural resource management activities in the Wet Tropics, addressing social, economic, and cultural issues, as well as environmental management. The Wet Tropics Plan for People and Country is currently under review.

***The Enhanced Extension Coordination Project*** has been developed as part of the Queensland Government's Reef Water Quality Program and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). This project improves coordination, collaboration and communication across different producer and extension networks to increase adoption of agricultural land management practices leading to improved water quality. Regional Coordinators collaborate with extension networks throughout the six GBR Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions to identify ways to better apply and tailor extension services to meet required needs and recommend other services that can support whole-of-farm outcomes. This project will provide opportunities for cross-project collaboration and continue capacity building opportunities for extension providers employed by Delivery Partners.

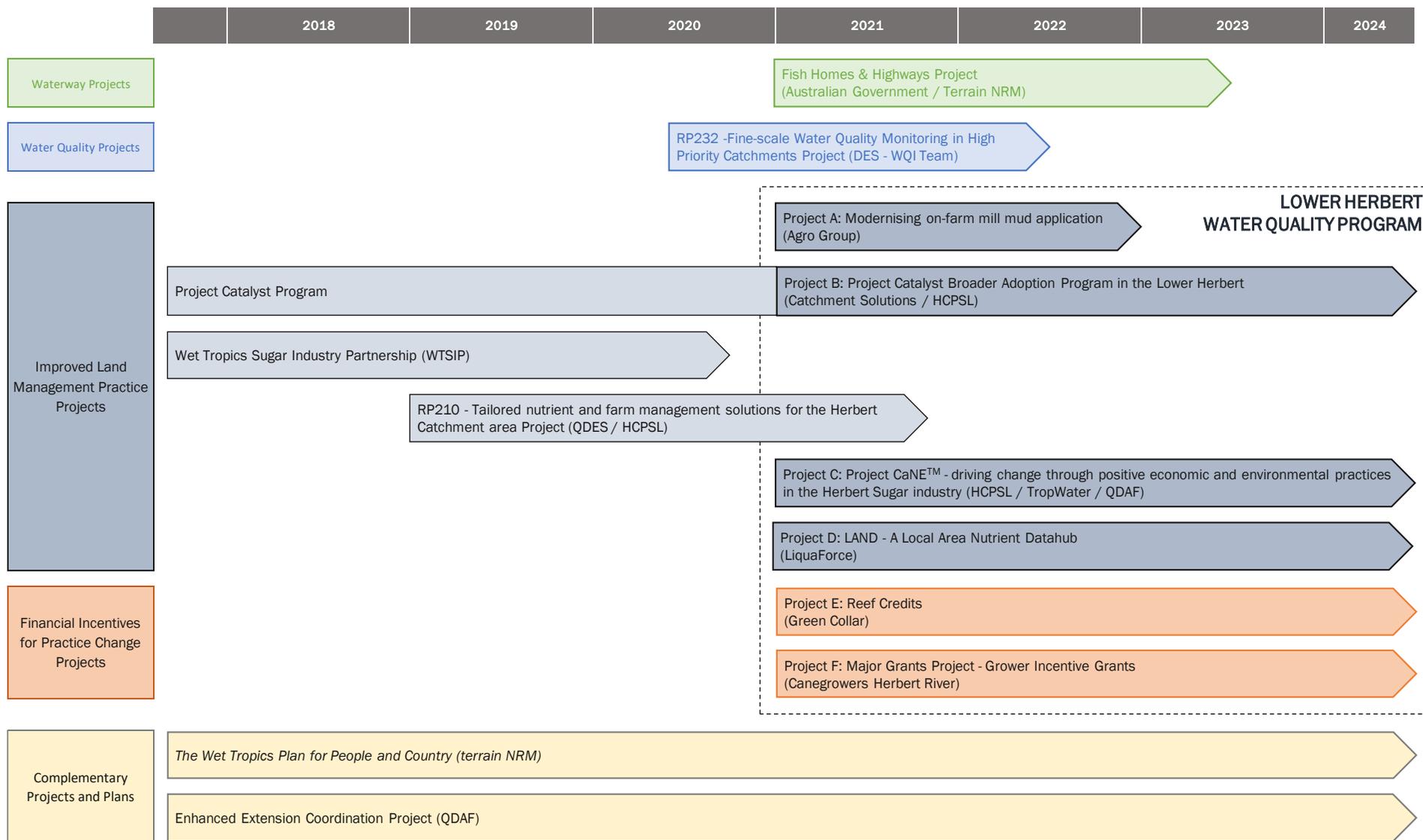


Figure 4. Program linkages with other Programs/Projects/Plans in the Lower Herbert.

## 7. Regional Overview

The Herbert sugar industry, which commenced operations in the Lower Herbert River catchment in 1888, is the predominant regional industry contributing approximately 14% of Queensland's sugar production in the 2019 harvest season (CANEGROWERS QLD, 2020). The lower Herbert River catchment of the Wet Tropics region of North Queensland is a coastal sugarcane growing area with limited opportunities for expansion; bound by the dry tropics area to the south and the Great Dividing Range to the west and north. The Herbert region is a dryland sugarcane growing area with small areas of supplementary irrigation but generally not requiring irrigation.

The source of the Herbert River is Herberton on the Atherton Tablelands. It then flows through the Herbert River gorge to the Lower Herbert River catchment area where the Herbert River drains several tributaries including Stoney Creek and Stone River. The mouth of the Herbert River is adjacent to Hinchinbrook Island, the largest island National Park in the world, and from here water flows into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. Several other waterways in the Lower Herbert River catchment including Palm Creek, Trebonne Creek and Cattle Creek, flow independently of the Herbert River, through the Halifax Bay Wetlands and into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

The Herbert sugar industry is primarily within the Hinchinbrook Local Government Area (LGA). It is calculated that one dollar of economic activity in cane growing brings forth an additional \$6.42 in economic activity elsewhere in the Queensland economy (QEAS, 2019). The Herbert sugar industry value chain supports nearly one-in-every-three full-time jobs (30.2%) in Hinchinbrook LGA (QEAS, 2019) hence the Lower Herbert regional community is highly dependent on the viability of the Herbert sugar industry for its future. In the 2019 season 4,055,702 tonnes of sugarcane were harvested from an area of 56,366 hectares with an average cane yield of 72 tonnes of cane per hectare (TCH) and average CCS of 13.9 (CANEGROWERS QLD, 2020).

The Herbert sugar industry includes growers, harvesters, millers, sugar terminal operators and marketers as well as many associated service industries in the region. The Herbert sugar industry includes approximately 580 individual sugarcane growers with an average age of farm managers being 60 years old with an average of 40 years involved in farming. 35% of Herbert growers have farms of less than 100 ha and many growers have off-farm incomes. In the 2020 season there were 56 harvesting groups operating with a wide variety of tonnes per harvesting group. In the Herbert region 99% of sugarcane is harvested green. There are two Herbert River mills, operated by Wilmar Sugar Australia, which usually crush 4-5 million tonnes of cane annually.

From a growing perspective most farm management practices are continually being refined. The various industry organisations assist growers with their decision-making including plant nutrition, identifying farming constraints, soil health, farming practices and sugar marketing.

The Smartcane BMP program in the Herbert region has 101 sugarcane growing businesses accredited which are responsible for ~40% of the catchment area (25,630 ha). An additional 352 businesses are registered and benchmarked in the Smartcane BMP program (CANEGROWERS Herbert River figures, December 2020).

## 8. Program Design

### Program logic

On-ground projects and core regional program activities under this Plan all contribute to the Program objectives. The Program logic (Figure 5) describes how the long-term goals and end of partnership/intermediate WQ outcomes will be achieved. The program logic is aligned with the RTP program logic.

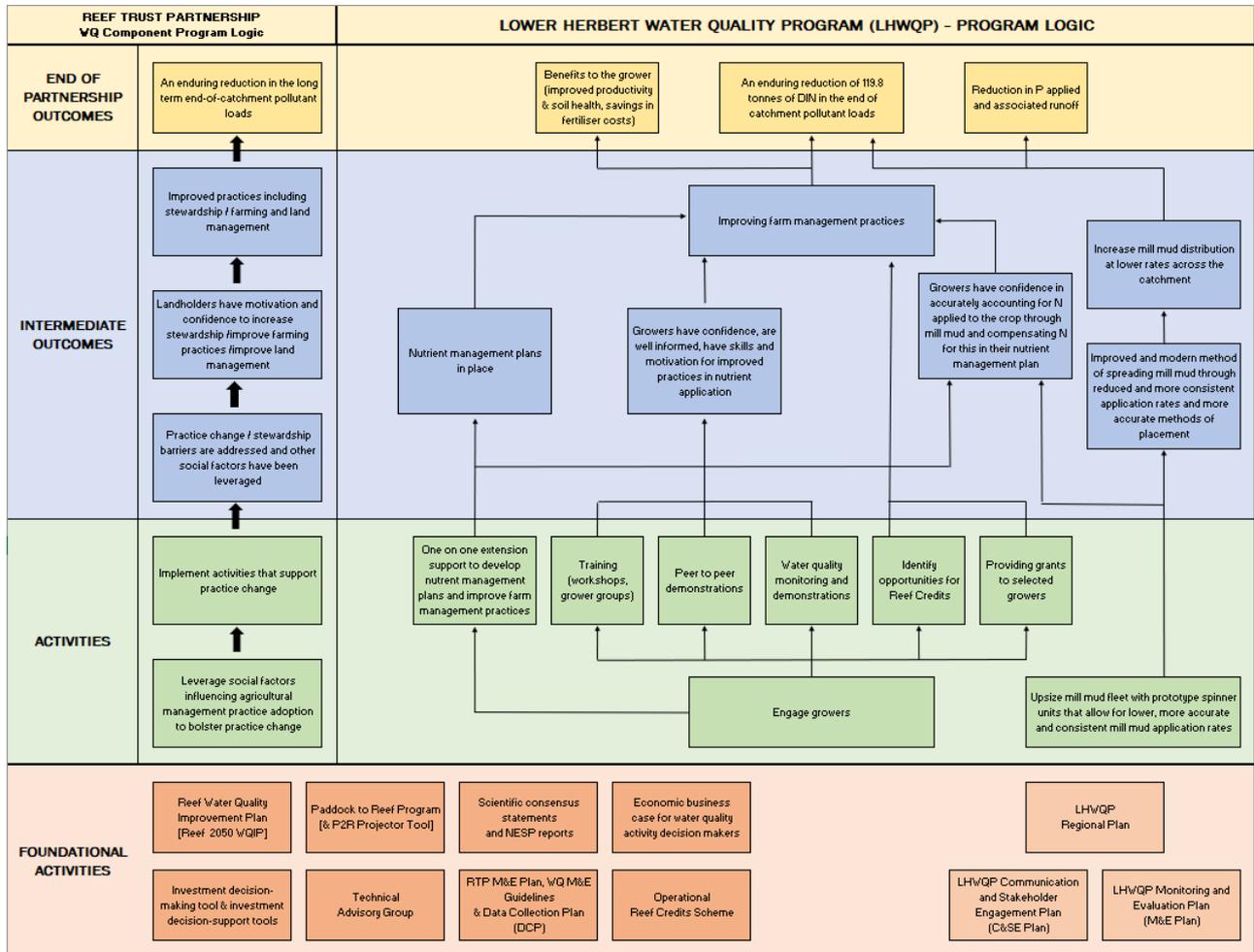


Figure 5. Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Logic.

## Budget

The total budget for the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program is \$16.2 million. The allocation of funds across projects and various contingencies is indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Lower Herbert Water Quality Program funding allocation.

Total Program budget	\$16,200,000
Partnership coordinator	\$1,044,000
WTSIP extension	650,000
DIN Projects A, B, C, D	\$11,142,273
Reef Credits (Project E)	\$500,000
Technical Advisory Group and cross cutting activities*	\$324,000
Grower incentives – Major Grants Projects (Project F)	\$1,500,000
Contingency	\$839,727
WQ Monitoring	\$200,000

\*Cross-cutting activities refers to activities with a whole-of-Partnership element. Each individual program contributes a small percentage of the program budget towards whole-of-Partnership technical support.

## Program activities

The Herbert Program includes activities that will support and promote improved land management practices and stewardship in the Herbert sugar industry. These activities will collectively contribute towards the primary Program objective to further Herbert grower commitment to improved nutrient management practices, with a focus on DIN, to achieve an enduring reduction in the long-term end-of-catchment load of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) of 140 tonnes by June 2024.

The Program Coordinator, in collaboration with Delivery Partners, will assist with landholder engagement and project involvement to prevent duplication of effort, promote collaboration, and develop synergies between projects where possible.

### Activities that improve land management practices and stewardship

There are five general Program activities to improve land management practices and stewardship in the Lower Herbert. Three activities support and enable improved land management practices by growers and two activities provide a financial incentive to growers for practice change.

The activities that support and enable improved land management practices are:

#### Activity 1: Improved mill mud application methods

The Program will enable more Herbert growers to augment their inorganic fertiliser application rates with organic mill mud. Precision banded application of mill mud at reduced rates will increase the geographical spread of mill mud application across the Lower Herbert region.

#### Activity 2: Extension support for improved nitrogen fertiliser management

The predominant activity in the Program is extension support for Herbert sugarcane growers to increase grower knowledge and improve nitrogen fertiliser management as part of improved farming systems. This includes a range of on-ground activities:

- One on one agronomic support to improve farm management practices, promote adoption of innovative and/or best practices, and develop customised farm nutrient management plans, including specifics for mill mud application if recommended.
- Group extension activities such as training events, workshops, shed meetings and demonstrations to promote improved nitrogen fertiliser management, address barriers to change and improve grower uptake of improved land management practices
- Collation of farm data with growers for growers to improve on-farm decision making and provide real time assessment of progress towards achieving targets
- Grower groups to facilitate on-farm peer-to-peer learning, by growers for growers, including dissemination of Lower Herbert real time water quality monitoring data and economic information

### Activity 3: Water Quality Monitoring

The Program actively engages farmers in water quality monitoring activities providing knowledge and empowering farmers to see first-hand the impacts they have on water quality through real-time water quality monitoring activities. This knowledge will give farmers the confidence needed to make necessary changes to their individual farming operations and will allow them to address issues as they arise, leading to practice change and water quality improvements. This program includes:

- 11 real time water quality monitoring sites established to assess farm practices implemented on-farm
- 10 demonstration sites to assess different farming practices and give farmers confidence in making a specific practice change
- Shed meetings to share outcomes and spark conversations on water quality matters and practice change

The activities that provide growers with a financial incentive for improved land management practices are:

### Activity 4: Reef Credits

Provide financial incentives to Herbert sugarcane growers to promote activities that improve on-farm nitrogen fertiliser management. For the Reef Credit Scheme, a market-based incentive mechanism, growers generate and sell Reef Credits that result from validated and audited activities achieving reductions in sediment, pesticide, and nutrient pollution.

### Activity 5: Grower Incentive Grants

Provide Grower Incentive Grants to Herbert sugarcane growers to improve land management practices that align with the intent of the Regional Plan by improving water quality in the region. Growers, whether engaged with Delivery Provider projects or not can apply for up to \$25,000 for a single farm project or up to for example \$100,000 for a multi-farm (4 growers) or district scale project. As a minimum, growers must contribute a matching cash amount to their Grower Incentive Grant Project. The Grower Incentive Grants are managed by Canegrowers Herbert River.

For further details on activities linked to projects refer to Table 2 and the portfolio of Projects (Appendix 2) to be delivered under the Program.

Table 2. Summary of Delivery Providers and their project activities.

LOWER HERBERT WATER QUALITY PROGRAM					
Delivery Provider	Area of focus	Activity	Pollutant		Description
			Major	Minor	
Agro Group	Precision mill mud application	Enable improved land management practices	DIN		Precision application of mill mud at reduced rates and to a wider extent
Catchment Solutions	Project Catalyst Expansion		DIN	Pesticide Sediment	Supporting 30 growers to undertake improved management practices on farm with support of the Project Catalyst Program
HCPSL	Farm management plans / local scale WQ monitoring		DIN	Pesticide Sediment	Implementing sustainable farm practice change with growers while maintaining or improving productivity and profitability.
LiquaForce	Data synthesis to improve farm decision making		DIN		Deliver optimal nutrient management plans for 35 growers and accessible information to close the knowledge gap for sustainable farm management
Green Collar	Reef Credits	Provide a Financial incentive	DIN		Implementing Reef Credits, a market-based solution for growers to progress land management improvements
Canegrowers Herbert River	Major Grants		DIN		Enable on-farm practice change for improved water quality by providing financial incentive to growers.

### Activities that involve Traditional Owners

Opportunities for Traditional Owner engagement in on-ground water quality improvement and monitoring activities will be promoted across Program and Project activities.

### Innovation activities

As noted above, \$10 million has been allocated towards the Innovation and Systems Change Water Quality Program, for projects focussed on innovation and system change as part of four thematic areas; Technology transformation, Sharing and management of industry and landholder-owned data, Broad and local scale planning of future interventions and Innovative funding and finance for the future.

One *Innovative funding and finance for the future* project is current in the Lower Herbert River catchment. The project, *Great Barrier Reef finance*, is managed by Cultivate Farms Pty who are working together with HCPSL. The project funding is \$170,000. Australian farms have traditionally been passed on to the next family members with family farms forming the cornerstone of the farming community and economy. However, the ability to retain and attract next-generation farmers is getting harder.

Cultivate farms will help eliminate the biggest barrier to farm ownership for next generations – access to capital and land – by matching aspiring (next generation) farmers with those looking to retire from the land. The transition will also be linked to improved management practises, which will result in improved water quality outcomes for our Reef.

The Program will make appropriate linkages to projects under the innovation program as they are implemented. Piloting innovative technologies and approaches is expected to lead to new practices being available for farming, land management and stewardship. It is also intended to lead to changes in how farmers make decisions, how agronomists provide support services, and how donors choose to invest. This will lead to improved practices (improved land management pathway) and contribute to innovative solutions for systems change in water quality.

### Early Investment activities

This first funding released under the Partnership occurred in early 2019 via a round of water quality grants, focused on projects that would maintain or build on-ground delivery capacity throughout the Reef catchments. Around \$20 million was committed to projects under this workstream. Eleven projects were contracted to reduce pollution from fine sediment, DIN, and pesticides within moderate, high, and very high

priority Reef catchments. Some of these projects have significantly contributed to the Water Quality target in the Lower Herbert region (Table 3).

### Regional projects linkages and expected DIN load reductions

Each project includes unique delivery approaches which consider the requirements of different cohorts of Lower Herbert growers in terms of engagement preferences and the tools and farming practices promoted. In this way the projects complement each other to engage as many Lower Herbert growers as possible in the Program. Likewise, each Project can link growers with one of the other Projects depending on the needs of individual growers. Each project supports one or more activities outlined above in order to achieve the expected end of project DIN load reduction as shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Lower Herbert DIN load reductions expected to be achieved at the end of the Program.

Project	Project Name	End of project DIN load reduction (tonnes)
	<i>Early Investment workstream</i>	119.1 *
<b>A</b>	<i>Modernising On-Farm Mill Mud Application</i>	42.6
<b>B</b>	<i>Project Catalyst Broader Adoption Program in the Lower Herbert</i>	4.2
<b>C</b>	<i>Project CaNE™- driving change through positive economic and environmental practices in the Herbert sugarcane industry</i>	62.5
<b>D</b>	<i>LAND – A Local Area Nutrient Datahub</i>	6
<b>E</b>	<i>Reef Credits Project</i>	TBD
<b>F</b>	<i>Major Grants Project – Grower Incentive Grants</i>	4.5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>238.9</b>

\*preliminary estimate used for the purpose of tracking water quality targets for the RTP Water Quality Program

### Future opportunities

Collaboration across the Program will enable additional project opportunities to be identified; either as stand-alone projects or components of existing Projects. The Annual Evaluation Forum will provide a venue to further explore project ideas to enhance the Program outcomes.

## 9. Communication and Stakeholder Engagement

The regionally developed Lower Herbert Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will promote a sense of regional ownership of, and unity in, the design and delivery of the Program, by the GBRF, Program Coordinator and Delivery Partners. It provides a framework to communicate and engage with Herbert sugarcane growers, intermediary groups involved in the Herbert sugar industry and other key stakeholders. It provides a framework to monitor and evaluate the success of communication approaches and stakeholder engagement in supporting the goals of the Program and identifies potential synergies, opportunities and roles to maximise engagement and participation of all stakeholders.

### Summary

The Lower Herbert Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan is critical to building understanding, trust and community ownership of the Partnership projects in the Lower Herbert. It is also important to ensure Program activities are collaborative and complement existing activities. The main communication goal is to work together to engage the Lower Herbert community to increase understanding and facilitate changes to farm management practices that improve catchment Water Quality and support the Partnership's goal for the Reef.

To understand how change can be supported and enabled in the Lower Herbert, we need to understand and work with the different communities of stakeholders, guided by an effective Lower Herbert

Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The community of stakeholders, growers, who implement that change belong to the Community of Place. Growers are the primary Program audience. The community of stakeholders who influence that change are the people and organisations in the Community of Practice. The community of stakeholders who are interested in that change are the people and organisations in the Community of Interest.

The Program Coordinator and Communications Manager, as part of the Canegrowers Herbert River Partnership Coordinator role, will be responsible for the management and delivery of all engagement and communication activities regarding the Program.

## Regional Forum

The Lower Herbert Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes intra-program communication approaches for the GBRF, Program Coordinator and Delivery Partners. The communication goal focuses on collaboration that maximises Program outcomes including a bi-annual Lower Herbert Regional Partner Forum that will enable timely review of Program progress including scale proven strategies and accelerate positive outcomes, integrate opportunities, identify, and consider issues of concern, promote information exchange and shared learnings opportunities, and proactively identify emerging issues.

Communication between these internal stakeholders shall be in line with contractual agreements and transparent in order to achieve the overarching goals of the Program and the Reef Trust Partnership. Internal communication protocols will be established for ensuring all relevant personnel and entities are included in decision-making and development and distribution of materials as required. This will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis at the Lower Herbert Regional Partner Forum.

## Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The Partnership has a nested approach to communication and stakeholder engagement planning in order for all Partnership Programs and Projects support the water quality outcomes and impacts for a healthy Reef. The Lower Herbert Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan complements the Partnership Communication and Engagement Plan. Similarly, each Delivery Partner, within the Program, will develop and implement a project-level Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan that complements these Plans. It is expected that Delivery Partners build on the regional-level communications plan to ensure alignment of messaging across projects and clear articulation on how linkages and synergies will be achieved.

The Lower Herbert Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan is provided separately.

## 10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan includes an overarching Program Logic (Figure 5), Indicator Summary and Data Collection Plan (DCP) and the Logic and Data Collection Plan (DCP) for each Project prepared by each Delivery Provider.

The Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Excel) provides a framework for Delivery Providers to report. This reporting will be directly to GBRF. In turn, GBRF will report the program to Paddock to Reef.

The Lower Herbert Regional Plan will be updated on an annual basis in line with review of the Annual Work Plan (below). Updates will be reviewed by the Program Steering Committee and Delivery Providers and available for distribution.

## 11. Work Plan

The Program Annual Work Plan 2021-2022 (Appendix 4) indicates the Program management activities to be undertaken during 2021 to 2022. The Annual Work Plan will be updated by 31 August each year to document Program management activities for the subsequent year. Each Work Plan will be developed in collaboration with the intra-Program partners, GBRF and Delivery Partners, through the Regional Partner Forum process.

## 12. Glossary and Acronyms

CGHR	Canegrowers Herbert River
DAF	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland Government
DES	Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Government
DIN	Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (1 tonne DIN = 1000 kg DIN)
GBRF	Great Barrier Reef Foundation
HCPSL	Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (a Delivery Partner)
OGBR	Office of the Great Barrier Reef, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland Government
RTP	Reef Trust Partnership
WQ	Water quality
SWQRF	Sugarcane Water Quality Risk Framework 2017-2022
NUE	Nutrient Use Efficiency

### 13. References

CANEGROWERS QLD, 2020. Annual Report 2019/20.

[https://www.canegrowers.com.au/icms\\_docs/321340\\_canegrowers-annual-report-2019-20.pdf](https://www.canegrowers.com.au/icms_docs/321340_canegrowers-annual-report-2019-20.pdf)

Queensland Economic Advocacy Solutions (QEAS) (2019). The economic contribution of the Sugarcane Industry to Queensland and its regional communities.

[https://www.canegrowers.com.au/icms\\_docs/310175\\_economic-contribution-of-the-sugarcane-industry-to-queensland.pdf](https://www.canegrowers.com.au/icms_docs/310175_economic-contribution-of-the-sugarcane-industry-to-queensland.pdf)

## 14. Appendixes

### 1. Lower Herbert Water Quality Program - Steering Committee Terms of Reference

#### The Great Barrier Reef Foundation

---

## Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Steering Committee Terms of Reference

### 1. Background

---

- (a) The Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) entered an agreement with the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE), which resulted in the Reef Trust Partnership (**the Partnership**).
- (b) As part of the Partnership, GBRF agreed to undertake a range of activities for the benefit of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.
- (c) Activities under the Partnership include a program of work aimed at improving water quality from the Lower Herbert catchment flowing to the Great Barrier Reef (**the Regional Water Quality Program**).
- (d) GBRF has appointed Canegrowers Herbert River to the role of **Regional Partnership Coordinator** to oversee coordination of the Regional Water Quality Program.
- (e) GBRF established the Steering Committee (**the Steering Committee**) in September 2020 to provide advice to GBRF in implementing the Partnership and undertaking the Regional Water Quality Program.

### 2. Purpose and Role

---

- 2.1 The purpose of the Steering Committee is to guide the planning and implementation of the Regional Water Quality Program.
- 2.2 The role of the Steering Committee is to guide the Regional Water Quality program, through the following:
  - (a) **Technical and strategic guidance:** Overseeing and endorsing the proposed approach to delivering the Regional Water Quality Program, including the regional plan, annual work plans, and related plans, including the suitability, efficacy and efficiency of the approach and related activities.
  - (b) **Risk management:** identifying and providing guidance on the approach to manage key risks to the program.
  - (c) **Review of key milestones:** Reviewing and providing feedback on key program deliverables, including regular progress reports.
  - (d) **Linking to other programs:** Identifying linkages and synergies with other existing or proposed programs related to improving water quality in the Great Barrier Reef.
  - (e) **Assessment panel:** Providing support in the assessment of proposals submitted by external organisations, such as potential delivery providers.

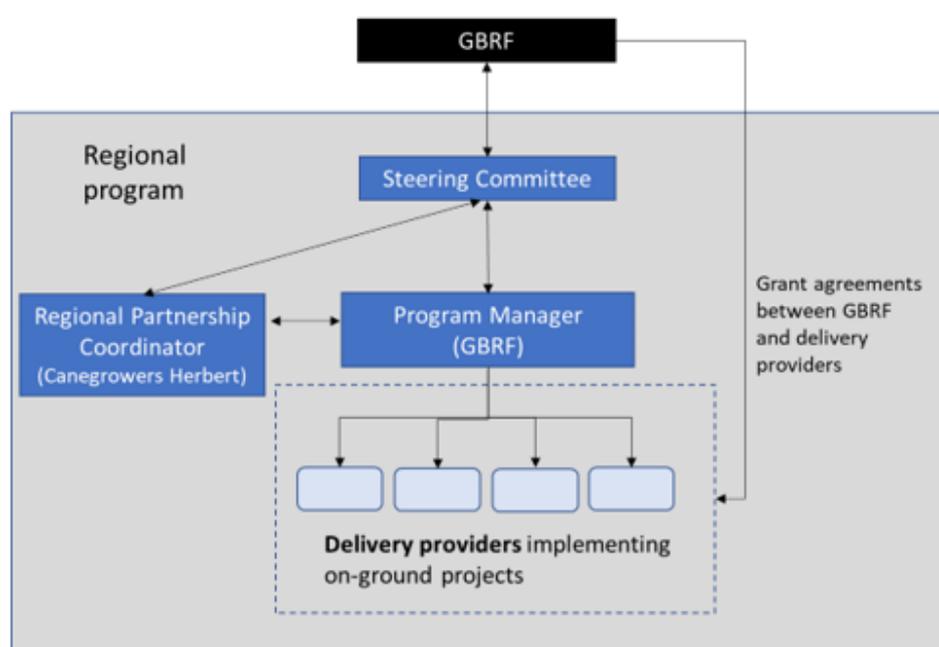
# The Great Barrier Reef Foundation

- (e) **Assessment panel:** Providing support in the assessment of proposals submitted by external organisations, such as potential delivery providers.

2.3 The Steering Committee may make recommendations to the GBRF but is not a decision-making body.

## 3. Reporting

The Steering Committee provides advice to the Water Quality Team within the GBRF. The reporting arrangements for the Steering Committee are shown below. The reporting arrangements for the Steering Committee are shown below.



## 4. Membership

### 4.1 Composition

The members of the Steering Committee are:

Core members:

- Robert Speed (Chair) – Director, Water Quality, GBRF
- Christian Roth – Advisor, Integrated Monitoring and Reporting, GBRF
- Frank Scardamaglia – Manager, Canegrowers Herbert River

The Regional Partnership Coordinator will provide secretariat support to the Steering Committee.

# The Great Barrier Reef Foundation

---

## **5. Meetings**

---

### **5.1 Frequency**

The Steering Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the group. It is anticipated that the Steering Committee will initially meet on a monthly basis, but likely revert to meeting every three months once the program is established.

### **5.2 Attendance**

- (a) Unless otherwise agreed, only members of the Steering Committee are entitled to attend Steering Committee Meetings.
- (b) Proxies will only be permitted with the approval of the Chair.
- (c) Attendance can be in person or via tele or video-conference.

### **5.3 Minutes**

- (a) The secretariat will keep minutes of proceedings of all Steering Committee meetings.
- (b) Minutes of Steering Committee meetings shall be circulated to all members of the Steering Committee.
- (c) Minutes shall be approved by the Steering Committee.

## **6. Confidentiality and conflicts of interest**

---

6.1 Confidential information provided by any member to the Steering Committee is provided solely for the purpose of the Steering Committee and must not be shared beyond the group without the express approval of the person who has provided the information. Confidential Information in this context means information that would not otherwise be available to the recipient.

6.2 Steering Committee members will keep group discussions confidential unless the group agrees otherwise.

6.3 Despite clauses 6.1 and 6.2, and unless otherwise provided, confidential information and Steering Committee discussions may be shared:

- (a) With employees or contractors of GBRF involved in the Water Quality Component, or
- (b) By the government representatives on the Steering Committee with other Australian or Queensland Government officials.

Any information so shared is required to be kept confidential.

6.4 Steering Committee members must fully and promptly disclose to the Chair any matter which may lead to potential or actual conflicts of interest.

## The Great Barrier Reef Foundation

---

- 6.5 The secretariat will maintain a record of conflicts of interest.
- 6.6 Steering Committee members will be required to sign a confidentiality and conflict of interest deed.

### **7. Expenses**

---

Unless otherwise agreed, each member of the Steering Committee will bear their own costs of participating in Steering Committee activities.

### **8. Term**

---

The Steering Committee was established in September 2020 and its support to GBRF and the Partnership will be ongoing until the end of the Reef Trust Partnership. However, the purpose, role and composition of the Steering Committee will be reviewed every year.

## 2. Portfolio of Projects

The following tables provide a summary of each project to be undertaken under the Program.

PROJECT A	Project Name: Modernising On-Farm Mill Mud Application
Summary:	<p>This project will build on recent improvements in mill mud distribution methods to reduce DIN runoff by 42.6 tonnes in the 2-year project and enable a legacy of improved nutrient management in the Lower Herbert. It will use a modified prototype unit to achieve reduced mill mud application rates, accurate and variable placement on the cane and the most efficient and user-friendly operating system for the driver to reduce human error and achieve a consistent output for the farmer to calculate their modified fertilising rates.</p> <p>Mill mud is a concentrated source of organic forms of macro and micro nutrients and is sought after by many sugarcane growers. Mill mud, a by-product of the sugarcane milling process, is managed by returning it to surrounding agricultural land. Historically transport costs and distribution methods have limited mill mud distribution within close proximity to each mill. Agro Group have developed a spinner applicator truck that reduces mill mud application rates per hectare (banded), results in consistent mill mud output, enabling growers to reliably modify their inorganic fertilising rates, and enables variable rate placement of mill mud in a safe, efficient and user-friendly manner.</p> <p>This project will enable Agro Group, the sole distributor of mill mud in the Lower Herbert, to introduce two additional spinner application trucks to their fleet. This, combined with reduced mill mud application rates per hectare, will enable mill mud to now be an economically viable product for more growers located further from the Herbert mills (&gt;30km).</p>
Proponent:	Agro Group Pty Ltd
Key Partners:	N/A
Location:	Lower Herbert, Wet Tropics
Target Pollutant:	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
Budget:	\$630,000 (excl. GST)
Completion Date:	30 June 2022
Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design and procure 2 new spinner applicator trucks.</li> <li>2. Include 2 new spinner applicator trucks into 2021 sugarcane season mill mud distribution program.</li> <li>3. Document geographical change in mill mud rates and distribution in the Lower Herbert.</li> </ol>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End of project pollutant load reduction: 42.6 tonnes DIN</li> <li>2. Target project cost-effectiveness: \$15/kg DIN/year</li> </ol>

<b>PROJECT B</b>	<b>Project Name: Project Catalyst Broader Adoption Program</b>
Summary:	<p>This program aims to improve nutrient and chemical management through the identification, evaluation, and adoption of innovative or best practices by 30 sugarcane growers in the Lower Herbert. This program builds on positive networks and practice change results generated from Project Catalyst, which commenced in 2009. The goal of Project Catalyst is to reduce the environmental footprint, enhance crop production and increase farm viability within sugarcane production systems in the Great Barrier Reef catchment.</p> <p>This project provides resources to promote the uptake and implementation of tested methodologies and farm management practices, with growers who have not previously been active in the innovation or early adoption categories of growers. It will significantly increase the area of land where Project Catalyst has achieved DIN reductions and created enduring improvements in the quality of waters entering the Great Barrier Reef.</p> <p>Depending on the grower's circumstances, this may include supporting the development of farm and nutrient management plans, soil testing, water quality monitoring, chemical and fertiliser applications and GPS mapping. Providers will work with growers to select a practice that is returning positive results elsewhere and establish paddock-wide implementation to validate the effectiveness of the changes. Potential growers will be guided through the practice change by assessing current practices and land conditions, to ensure appropriate critical activities take place as part of the program.</p> <p>The project will also provide additional opportunities via networking events (shed meetings, field days and an annual forum) and maintaining and expanding the grower network within Project Catalyst which is critical in providing "Peer to Peer" learning through open discussion and sharing of information.</p>
Proponent:	Catchment Solutions Pty Ltd
Key Partners:	World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia, Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd, Nutrient Ag Solutions, KK Creative Content, Flow Motion Media, Red Hot Blue, BB Print
Location:	Lower Herbert, Wet Tropics
Target Pollutant:	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
Budget:	\$1,432,373 (excl. GST)
Completion Date:	30 June 2024
Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engage with and support 30 growers new to the program, to undertake practice change tailored to their farm conditions across 4,500 hectares of farmland.</li> <li>2. In the last year of the program engage with and support 14 of these growers (from years 1 and 2) to receive ongoing agronomic support as part of the continuous improvement program.</li> </ol>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End of project pollutant load reduction: 4.2 tonnes DIN</li> <li>2. Targeted reduction of recommended Nitrogen application rates by 6%</li> <li>3. Sediment reduction of 1,500 tonnes</li> <li>4. Pesticide reduction of 0.9 kg per annum (as modelled using the P2R Projector tool)</li> <li>5. Networking events; including shed meetings, field days, annual forum.</li> <li>6. Communication products distributed, including water quality assessments, case studies, fact sheets, videos, annual magazine</li> <li>7. Target project cost-effectiveness: \$341/kg DIN/year</li> </ol>

<b>PROJECT C</b>	<b>Project Name: Project CaNE™- driving change through positive economic and environmental practices in the Herbert sugarcane industry</b>
Summary:	<p>This project will work with farmers to drive productive, financially, and environmentally sustainable farming systems. The project will attempt to address the issue of DIN being exported from the farm into freshwater and marine ecosystems within the Catchment area, while maintaining cane productivity. Other pollutants like DIP, sediment and pesticides will also be addressed with farmers when the opportunity exists.</p> <p>Novel and innovative extension approaches will be utilised to engage with farmers to undertake practice change activities leading to improvements in water quality and productivity, backed by robust scientifically proven water quality monitoring throughout the catchment area. HCPSL will lead the extension component of the project utilising face to face, group extension and mass media extension methodologies to engage farmers throughout the Herbert cane growing region. TropWater will lead the water quality monitoring component of the project.</p> <p>The project vision is to empower farmers to improve farming practices that reduce DIN and other agriculturally based pollutants entering local water ways. The project aims to improve water quality through implementing sustainable farm practice change, while maintaining or improving productivity and profitability.</p> <p>It focuses on an extension strategy aimed at practice change towards B class practices within the SWQRF and addressing farming systems activities that limit crop productivity, thus improving NUE. Farmer confidence in this concept will be enhanced through demonstrations and local water quality information in the Herbert River district. Real time water quality monitoring sites will provide farmers with feedback on practices they undertake on-farm concerning water quality. The DAF Economics team will undertake economic analysis to assess the viability of different farming systems being assessed.</p>
Proponent:	Herbert Cane Productivity Services Limited (HCPSL)
Key Partners:	James Cook University (TropWater), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Roeger Consulting, Aquasea Consulting, Tanglewood Consulting, Herbert River Catchment Landcare Group
Location:	Lower Herbert, Wet Tropics
Target Pollutant:	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
Budget:	\$7,093,900 (excl. GST)
Completion Date:	30 June 2024
Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 11 real time water quality monitoring sites established to assess farm practices implemented on-farm</li> <li>2. 10 demonstration sites to assess different farming practices and give farmers confidence in making a specific practice change</li> <li>3. 36 Group extension meetings “Cultivating CaNE™” to drive practice change</li> <li>4. 9 Workshops “Back 2 Basics™” focus on concepts to develop greater understanding and capacity building</li> <li>5. 9 Workshops “Farming 4 CASH™” focus on production efficiencies and profitability to develop greater understanding and capacity building</li> <li>6. ca.100-150 CaNE Plan™ tailored farm management plans to facilitate practice change and drive improvements in nitrogen use efficiency (NUE)</li> <li>7. Economic analysis to assess the viability of different farming systems being assessed</li> <li>8. ~30 multimedia engagements (videos, podcasts, social media, articles etc.)</li> </ol>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End of project pollutant load reduction: 62.5 tonnes DIN by improving use of mill mud, improving NUE and refining legume fallow</li> <li>2. Target project cost-effectiveness: \$114/kg DIN/year</li> <li>3. Phosphorus, pesticide, and sediment reductions if opportunities present</li> </ol>

<b>PROJECT D</b>	<b>Project Name: LAND – A Local Area Nutrient Datahub</b>
Summary:	<p>LiquaForce recognised that vast improvements were required to the systems of information that were available to growers, and so developed LAND to deliver a paradigm shift in the level of actionable insight and accessibility of key agronomic information for growers of all levels of digital maturity. LAND will deliver optimal nutrient management plans, industry-leading DIN reduction, and accessible information to close the knowledge gap for sustainable farm management.</p> <p>One of the greatest opportunities to significantly reduce DIN load at the end of priority GBR catchments is to drive widespread practice change in grower communities. LAND will enable adoption of optimal fertiliser rates, application methods and farm management practices, facilitated by thorough knowledge of crop history, land structure and soil composition that drives decision making processes.</p> <p>LAND not only produces an optimal Six Easy Steps nutrient management plan for each grower tailored to their region and to specific farm, paddock and soil lab data inputs, it also provides secure, private, digital storage of all their farm, soil and production data year on year, enabling easy long-term monitoring of crop and financial performance over time, and a far greater understanding of underlying agronomic issues and solutions suitable for their farms. The quality and accessibility of the connected data in LAND delivers the <i>information capacity</i> for widespread practice change, which will result in an enduring reduction of 4kg/ha of DIN runoff.</p>
Proponent:	LiquaForce Pty Ltd
Key Partners:	Herbert AgriServices, TropCrop, Dirrawan Consulting Group, TDC Auto Electrical (VRA Trailer), Drone Training Solutions, Valid8, Rowell Legal, New Insights
Location:	Lower Herbert, Wet Tropics
Target Pollutant:	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
Budget:	\$1,986,000 (excl. GST)
Completion Date:	30 June 2024
Activities:	<p>The project will be delivered in 3 key stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishment of Growers on LAND &amp; Data Acquisition. Outputs for growers will include; updateable, optimised nutrient management plan, workable, whole farm nutrient budget, a measure of nutrient use efficiency based on block yield data, on-farm aggregates (crop class/variety) and ability to track soil test program and requirements.</li> <li>2. Driving Adoption, Practice Change (including Variable Rate Application of fertilisers) &amp; Ongoing Grower Support. Enable growers to make sense of their wealth of farm data with training and learning provided to growers in 3 key ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 professional agronomy visits in the first year then 2 visits in the second year</li> <li>• 20 shed meetings/grower information sessions during the project</li> <li>• Ongoing interaction with LiquaForce personnel (due to commercial relationship) over many years</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</li> </ol>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End of project pollutant load reduction: 6 tonnes DIN</li> <li>2. Target project cost-effectiveness: \$331/kg DIN/year</li> <li>3. Reduce lost DIN at a rate of 4kg/ha over 6000 Ha, involving 35 Herbert growers</li> <li>4. Provide a secure, accessible farm data information platform (as-a-service) to growers to allow a better understanding of their farm profile, its nutrient requirements, constraints, and opportunities</li> <li>5. Provide variable rate application of nutrients (as-a-service) to growers at less than market rates to promote adoption of precision agricultural practices</li> </ol>

<b>PROJECT E</b>	<b>Project Name: Reef Credits Project</b>
Summary:	<p>The Reef Credit Scheme is an innovative finance solution that will directly improve Great Barrier Reef (GBR) water quality. The Reef Credit Scheme is a market-based incentive mechanism, designed for the GBR catchments. Landowners generate and sell Reef Credits that result from validated and audited activities achieving reductions in sediment, pesticide, and nutrient pollution. Reef Credits are then sold to a range of buyers such as government, corporate, industrial, or philanthropic entities.</p> <p>Reef Credits incentivise land management improvement that reduces pollution flowing to the GBR. The sale of Reef Credits allows for payment of validated outcomes over a 10-25-year timeframe, audited against approved methodologies. Reef Credits are issued for improvements above and beyond regulated and legal requirements and only for benefits additional to existing farm practices.</p> <p>The Reef Credit Scheme has been created and tested with farmers over the past two years, with pilot projects across all GBR catchments including the Mackay Whitsunday, Lower Burdekin and Lower Herbert. As a Delivery Provider in these regions, GreenCollar will work closely with the GBRF, and relevant Regional Program Managers, Partnership Coordinators and other Delivery Providers to ensure Reef Credits projects focus on activities and actions that are complimentary to past and current Regional projects in order to achieve the greatest water quality improvement. This will also include the co-design process, developing projects with farmers to reduce dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) run-off and create Reef Credit, focusing on securing additional investment to the region. The objective is to leverage and optimise GBRF investment making it endure far beyond the initial term of investment.</p>
Proponent:	GreenCollar Group
Key Partners:	N/A
Location:	Lower Herbert, Wet Tropics
Target Pollutant:	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
Budget:	\$500,000 (excl. GST)
Completion Date:	30 June 2024
Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping out a Reef Credit project at the property level and starting a partnership between farmers and GreenCollar (via Heads of Agreement)</li> <li>2. Data collection process to help establish historical baseline on fertiliser applications, soil tests, land management activities and changes to farming practices</li> <li>3. Assess the amount of Reef Credits that could be delivered and develop a project delivery agreement.</li> <li>4. Formal validation and audit of the project by Reef Credit Secretariat (Eco-Markets Australia)</li> <li>5. Annual reporting and payments</li> </ol>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End of project pollutant load reduction: TBD</li> </ol>

<b>PROJECT F</b>	<b>Project Name: Major Grants Project</b>
Summary:	<p>The Major Grant Project (MGP) is an integral component of the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program that will provide a financial incentive to Herbert sugarcane growers to improve land management practices that align with the intent of the Regional Plan by improving water quality in the region. Growers, whether engaged with Delivery Provider projects or not can apply for up to \$25,000 for a single farm project or up to for example \$100,000 for a multi-farm (4 growers) or district scale project. As a minimum, growers must contribute a matching cash amount to their Grower Incentive Grant Project.</p> <p>The MGP will specifically be for those practices that improve on-farm nitrogen management such as matching nitrogen supply to crop nitrogen requirements, timing of fertiliser application and/or fertiliser application method.</p> <p>Growers who receive an Incentive Grant to conduct a Grower Incentive Grant Project acknowledge that it is a suitable incentive mechanism to achieve practice change to 'B' practices according to the <i>Sugarcane Water Quality Risk Framework 2017-2022</i> and will undertake the improvement in farm management practices necessary to do so.</p> <p>The Grower Incentive Grant Projects will be available to growers already involved with other Delivery Providers in the Program as well as growers not currently involved in the Program. The Grant Officer will enter P2R reporting requirements for all growers who apply for a Grower Incentive Grant and assist all growers as required. This approach will optimise uptake and implementation of Grower Incentive Grants in the Lower Herbert and provide the greatest opportunity of success of the MGP.</p>
Proponent:	Canegrowers Herbert River
Key Partners:	All Program Delivery Providers
Location:	Lower Herbert, Wet Tropics
Target Pollutant:	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN)
Budget:	\$1,500,000 (excl. GST)
Completion Date:	30 June 2024
Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a MGP Committee to oversee development of MGP documentation and MGP delivery.</li> <li>2. Develop and implement a MGP Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan to guide internal and external communication activities.</li> <li>3. Develop and implement a MGP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and complete all relevant reporting responsibilities.</li> <li>4. Deliver Grower Incentive Grant Project rounds and assist successful Grant recipients with their projects as required.</li> <li>5. Complete P2R Reporting requirements (benchmarking) for all Grower Incentive Grant Projects.</li> <li>6. Verify that the targeted average annual DIN load reduction has been achieved and that Smartcane BMP accreditation has been successfully completed by Grant recipients.</li> </ol>
Goals:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. End of project pollutant load reduction: 4.5 tonnes DIN</li> <li>2. Target project cost-effectiveness: \$333/kg DIN/year.</li> </ol>

### 3. Program Annual Work Plan 2021-2022

SERVICES In collaboration with GBRF:	2021				2022							
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
<b>1_Program Governance</b>												
1a Steering Committee Meeting												
1b Technical Advisory Group Meeting												
1c Program Managers / Partnership Coordinators Meeting												
<b>2_Regional program planning/design</b>												
2a Ongoing assessment of LH Project terms and scope of services in relation to WQ Outcomes												
2b Coordinate forums/meetings with, and promote input from, regional Delivery Partners												
2c Develop the Regional Program Plan (completed)												
<b>5_Regional program implementation/delivery</b>												
5a Support Delivery Providers to collaborate and promote landholder engagement												
5b Coordinate engagement and alignment between the Program and other regional initiatives												
5c Promote landholder and community support for the program												
5d Support GBRF in overseeing on ground projects by delivery providers												
5e Support periodic reviews of the LHWQP and LH Projects and provide sound advice												
5f Use P2R Projector Tool to assess LH Project performance and progress towards targets												
<b>3_Regional Partners Forum</b>												
3a Regional Partners Forum												
3b Involve Traditional Owner and stakeholder groups in Regional Plan - planning and implementation												
<b>4_Communications</b>												
4a Implement Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan												
4b Implementation of activities in accordance with the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Plan												
Website												
Grower eNewsletter (weekly)												
Community Newsletter (6-monthly)												
Podcasts: [Themes indicated]												
Radio												
Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/LinkedIn												
School & Community Engagement												
Videos												
4c Ensure all LHWQP material complies with RTP requirements												
<b>6_Monitoring and Evaluation</b>												
6a Implement Program M&E Plan												
6b Incorporate other indicators into Program M&E Plan												
6c Support the whole of partnership MERI program												
<b>7_Capacity and Capability Support</b>												
7a Advise GBRF and liaise with the TAG where required												
7b In collaboration with GBRF and its advisors assess needs for regional technical advice and support												
7c Develop and implement strategies for synergies with other strategies and programs												
<b>8_Reporting</b>												
8a Collation and revision of Progress Reports from Delivery Providers												
8b Annual Work Program Plan [31 August @ year]												
Progress Reporting												
8c Final Report (not until June 2024)												
8d Provide contractual financial reporting to GBRF (as requested)												