

Reef Trust Partnership



Annual Work Plan 2024-2025



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

Reef Trust Partnership

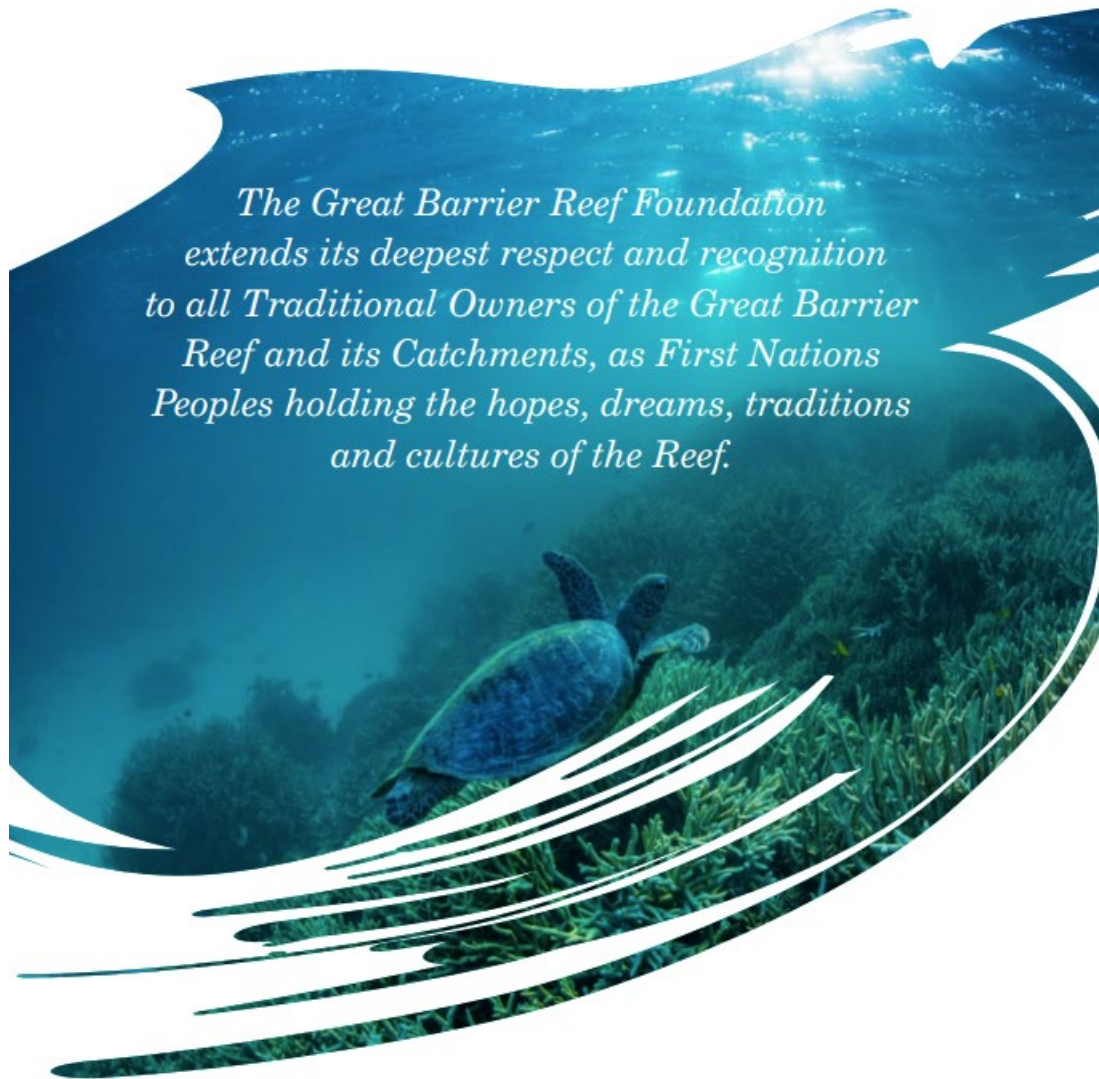
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Acronyms and Glossary

AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
CAP	Community Action Plan
CAP Leaders	Community Action Plan Leaders
Co-Design Groups	Formerly referred to as Traditional Owner Technical Working Groups.
Component	A term used in the Grant Agreement to describe the six different focus areas under the Partnership: Water Quality, Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Control, Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science, Integrated Monitoring and Reporting, Traditional Owner Reef Protection, and Community Reef Protection
COTS	Crown-of-Thorns Starfish
DMS	Data Management System
DES	Queensland Department of Environment and Science
DIN	Dissolved inorganic nitrogen
DSS	Decision support system
FS/FSS	Fine sediments / Fine suspended sediments
GBR	Great Barrier Reef
The Foundation/GBRF	Great Barrier Reef Foundation
GBRMPA	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
GBRWHA	Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area
IMR	Integrated Monitoring and Reporting (Component of the Reef Trust Partnership)
JCU	James Cook University
LMAC	Local Marine Advisory Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NESP	National Environmental Science Program
NRM	Natural resource management
Partnership	Reef Trust Partnership
Partnership Activities	An overarching term for the key deliverables of the RTP portfolio, described as Activities and listed in each Annual Work Plan. Programs and Projects ladder up into the Partnership Activities.
QUT	Queensland University of Technology
R&D	Research and Development
RIMREP	Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program
RRAP	Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program
RRAS	Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science
RRRC	Reef and Rainforest Research Centre
RTP	Reef Trust Partnership
SCU	Southern Cross University
TAG	(Water Quality) Technical Advisory Group
TOAG	Traditional Owner Advisory Group
TWG	Traditional Owner Technical Working Group. NB: As of the start of 2021-2022, these groups will be referred to as Co-Design Groups, working across the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component.
UQ	The University of Queensland
WQIP	Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan



*The Great Barrier Reef Foundation
extends its deepest respect and recognition
to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier
Reef and its Catchments, as First Nations
Peoples holding the hopes, dreams, traditions
and cultures of the Reef.*

The GBRF would like to thank the Reef Branch of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian Government) the Office of the Great Barrier Reef (Queensland Government), and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority for their contributions to this Annual Work Plan via the RTP's Partnership Management Committee.

This Work Plan was approved by the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Board on 27 June 2024.

Annual Work Plan 2024-2025: Summary

This is the sixth Annual Work Plan for the Reef Trust Partnership (RTP). Outlining the investment priorities for the seventh year of the \$437.8m landmark Reef Trust Partnership (a partnership between the Australian Government and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation). It represents the sixth year of on-ground and on-water delivery.

The RTP Annual Work Plan 2024-2025 details continuing work across the portfolio for all Components, with the exception of RRAS which fully transitions to AIMS (who serve as Managing Entity for RRAP) from 1 July 2024. A small number of projects have been extended in the COTS and IMR Components to ensure maximum impact can be achieved where projects have been delayed or where a significant opportunity to value add to a project's existing outputs has been identified. All work within these Components will be completed by June 2025. Programs of work under the Water Quality Component will also conclude by 30 June 2025. Traditional Owner and Community Reef Protection activities continue until 30 June 2026.

Budget: \$34.621m

Annual Work Plan 2024-2025 activities at a glance:

Water Quality Component (budget \$14m)

- Continued delivery and wrap up of remaining activities within the 10 regional programs.
- Continued implementation and wrap up conservation and protection activities in the Eastern Cape York Water Quality Program and finalisation of the wetland restoration prioritisation tool.
- Continued delivery and wrap up of the innovation program.
- Final reporting on completed contracted projects including regional reflections workshops to inform legacy and transition activities.

COTS Control Component (budget \$2.86m)

- Continued delivery and wrap up of the CCIP, including synthesis/legacy reporting.
- CCIP bridging activities focussing on research translation and planning for future COTS Control R&D.

Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component (budget \$11.297m)

- Continued delivery of all existing programs including implementation of the Healthy Country Grants program.
- Continued implementation of the Traditional Owner Strategic Communications Framework.
- Establish Futures Fund sustainable funding model in partnership with the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan Taskforce.

Community Reef Protection Component (budget \$2.338m)

- Continued delivery of the Community Climate Action Grant Program.
- Continued delivery of the Community Action Plans (CAPs), Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub, IMR integration. (stewardship monitoring project), and 'communicating stories of hope' workstreams.
- Continued delivery of the community sector leadership and development support programs.

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component (budget \$4.126m)

- Wrap up of 4 extended Critical Monitoring projects.
- Completion of stage 2 of the Data Management System build to ensure a successful transition into RIMREP.

Across the Portfolio:

- There will be a continued focus on building and nurturing strategic partnerships across the Portfolio as Components fully close out and transition to elsewhere in the Reef system.
- The RTP will continue to support system readiness for TO governance and power sharing arrangements as a number of complementary Traditional Owner Reef Protection workstreams are activated in the coming years from management partners.
- At a Portfolio level, formal RTP transition planning and legacy capture processes will continue to ensure the momentum created through the RTP is not lost at the end of each Component's activities.
- The final RTP Evaluation will occur in late 2024 for most Components (Traditional Owner and Community Reef Protection full evaluations will occur closer to their close out date of 30 June 2026).

Water Quality Component

Partnership Budget: \$199m

2024-2025 budget: \$14m







Purpose: To address water quality improvement targets impacting the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area through activities such as improved farming practices, reduced fertiliser usage and uptake of new technology and land management practices.

Priorities under the Partnership Investment Strategy:

- Investment in on-ground actions
- Systems-level change and innovation

End-of-Partnership Outcomes

The Reef Trust Partnership's Water Quality Component will result in:

 <p>Enduring reduction in long-term end-of-catchment pollutant loads</p>	 <p>Innovative solutions for systems change in water quality improvement are available</p>	 <p>Maintenance or improvement of water quality from less disturbed catchments</p>
 <p>Increase in Traditional-Owner-led water quality improvement projects and Traditional Owner involvement in non-Traditional-Owner-led projects</p>	 <p>An improved approach for implementing water quality improvement programs</p>	 <p>Enduring economic drivers for improved land management or land use change are available</p>

Progress on six-year journey

The Water Quality Component is delivering a meaningful improvement in the quality of water that flows from the catchments to the Reef, supporting the sustainability of the agricultural sector and bringing innovation in the approaches applied to make change happen. The five-year strategy prioritises funding for proven, on-ground measures aimed at addressing priority pollutants: dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN), pesticides, and fine sediment (FS). This is complemented by significant funding to drive innovation, as well as work to protect less-disturbed catchments, notably in Eastern Cape York.

Reef Trust Partnership

As we commence the last year of the program, 98% of the Component's available funding is committed with 27 projects successfully completed, while 49 are still underway. Working together with water quality experts from more than 150 organisations and thousands of individual landholders we are:

- On track to prevent 302 kilotonnes of fine sediment, 455 tonnes of DIN, and 4m risk units (toxicity) of pesticides per year from entering the Reef. The fine sediment and DIN reductions represent 65% and 99% of our water quality improvement targets, respectively.
- Improving land management across 1,196,540 hectares in partnership with over 2,000 landholders.
- Rehabilitating landscapes with 51 gullies and 17 streambanks restored to date, with final streambank restoration underway for expected completion early December 2024.
- Sharing findings and lessons from the on-ground verification process for grazing management practices and gully and streambank remediation works (further detail available on our [website](#)).
- Monitoring two wetlands in contrasting climatic conditions to understand their potential in treating pollutant runoff from agricultural activities.
- Supporting novel ideas to deliver transformational change in Reef water quality, with a suite of technology, financing and planning innovation projects progressing well towards a commercialisation, implementation, spatial planning and/or a systems/policy change outcome.
- Working in partnership with local communities and Traditional Owners to reduce sediment loads caused by erosion from unsealed roads, informal tracks, gullies, and uncontrolled bushfires in Eastern Cape York.
- Supporting the development of a wetlands prioritisation tool and additional coastal wetlands functionality within the eReefs platform to support a coastal floodplain modelling capability that can be applied across GBR catchments.

The 2024-2025 period will focus on:

- Consolidation and wrap up of the Water Quality Component.
- Supporting the maintenance and monitoring of selected remediated sites where appropriate and feasible.
- Integrating findings and outcomes from innovation projects into decision making processes and on-ground practices to maximise impact and facilitate enduring water quality outcomes.
- Sharing lessons across programs with key stakeholders through legacy documents, publications, regional events, and targeted strategic forums.
- Evaluation of program's overall impact and lessons to help future programs be most effective at engaging landholders and achieving behaviour and practice change.
- Technical Advisory Group support to strengthen outputs and final Water Quality Component evaluation, including the public availability of methods that fill gaps in measuring pollutant load reductions.

With most projects wrapping up, the current emphasis is on supporting delivery providers and regional partners with contractual and financial commitments, legacy, and communication products and key activities involved in completing projects. Work is ongoing to confirm final target figures and ensure projects will meet end-of-project water quality improvements. Final regional events are being convened to engage with stakeholders, celebrate achievements and close programs.

In 2024-2025 GBRF will continue with the on-ground implementation of the remaining Regional, Conservation, and Innovation projects and will focus on the Water Quality Component final evaluation. The focus will also remain on working with partners to consolidate and/or finalise their interventions and build on the legacy of the Reef Trust Partnership. A key task for the Water Quality team will be around sharing the learnings, information, systems, methods, and tools to guide and support future Australian and Queensland Government investments in water quality. This process will include the development of briefing papers and reports on specific areas of work. It will also involve actively participating in forums and specific Working Groups or Committees and developing publications. The limited funds that are allocated but not yet committed in contracts will be used to extend the most successful of the innovation and on-ground projects and support maintenance of remediation projects.

Water Quality Regional Programs

Ten regional water quality improvement programs are well advanced, with seven programs for the most part close to completion. Out of 35 on-ground projects being implemented, and at the time of this Plan, approximately 6-8 will be extended post June 2024 to ensure delivery impact is maximised. Regional program managers and partnership coordinators (where applicable) are in place for the larger programs to oversee and coordinate final local actions and actors.

Table 1: RTP Water Quality targets by Regional Program

Regional program	Constituent	RTP Target	Progress to RTP target	% of progress to RTP target	Program manager	Partnership coordinator	Number of on-ground projects
Bowen, Broken, Bogie (BBB)	Fine Sediment	330kt	96.5kt	30%	NQ Dry Tropics (Regional manager to plan and implement the delivery of the BBB program)		3
Fitzroy	Fine Sediment	50kt	37.2kt	70.4%	GBRF	Fitzroy Basin Association	5
Lower Burdekin	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	48t	50.8t	105%	NQ Dry Tropics		4
	Pesticides	576,809 Risk Units (RU)	899,332 RU	155%			
Lower Herbert	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	140t	125.5t	90%	GBRF	Herbert River District Cane Growers Organisation Ltd	5
Mackay-Whitsunday	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	26t	28.1	107%	GBRF	Reef Catchments	9
	Pesticides	2,960,100 RU	3,167,440 RU	107%			
Mary	Fine Sediment	28kt	25.3kt	90%	None appointed, but the Burnett Mary Regional Group and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee perform the Program Manager and Partnership Coordinator equivalent roles, respectively		1
Mulgrave-Russell	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	72t	5.8t	8%	The Reef and Rainforest Research Centre	Canegrowers Cairns Region Ltd	2
Upper and East Burdekin	Fine Sediment	44kt	49.6kt	112%	N/A	N/A	1
Upper Herbert	Fine Sediment	13kt	3.7kt	28%	N/A	N/A	1
Tully and Johnstone	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen	170kt	58.4	34%	Terrain NRM		4

The water quality regional programs delivered under the RTP are unprecedented in their scale – both in terms of the number of projects (35), and the size of the investment (\$132m to spend in a 6-year window inclusive of program design). This, combined with the cumulative impacts of COVID-19, consistent extreme weather events, and capacity challenges in regional Queensland, has resulted in the slippage of some of the regional programs to a point where

some of them are unlikely to achieve their expected end of program milestones. In addition, some of the initial assumptions within the investment tool used to inform our cost-effectiveness model are no longer valid, either because the data available at the time of planning has been demonstrated to be inaccurate, or because externalities have had greater impact than anticipated. This means that the targets set using this data will not be met in all cases, particularly relating to fine sediment.

A range of novel approaches and systems continue being implemented to improve the delivery of the regional programs:

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, including the capture of farm-level M&E data. The Water Quality Component M&E systems are driving accountability, transparency, and resource efficiencies within the water quality landscape. The M&E data collection infrastructure (GBRF's spatial database system) continues to support the reporting of farm-level data by delivery providers. Similarly, the real-time visualisation tools enable project managers, delivery providers and the GBRF to manage the program closely, swiftly adapt and identify opportunities for synergies. Dashboards are also available to the public through the GBRF's website. The establishment of the internal data collection system and the availability of the information through the dashboards is a first in this field. A GBRF priority for 2024-2025 will be to look for opportunities to communicate to future investors the value that these systems offer, and to transfer the knowledge of how to implement such systems in future water quality improvement programs.

Data from completed projects (excluding those receiving extensions) will be submitted to Paddock to Reef (P2R) in July 2024 for inclusion in the next Reef Report Card.

Governance arrangements that more clearly identify responsibilities between program partners. These arrangements have also improved accountability and supported adaptive management across the delivery landscape.

Building on both the governance and M&E systems, the program is implementing processes to track progress towards targets, including the process for verifying on-ground outcomes through site visits to ensure that land use practices are being correctly reported, and stop/go points for projects that are not meeting cost-effectiveness requirements.

The 2024-2025 period will see all 10 regional programs wrap up. Seven of the programs are expected to finalise most activities by the end of June 2024 with remaining projects continuing for a further 3, 6 and 12 months. Annual reviews and site visits in support of managers to assess progress and guide adaptive management actions will continue where needed.

A series of consultancies to address the data and monitoring gaps identified during the analysis undertaken by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) are well underway and will be finalised by early to-mid 2024-2025. These consultancies are supporting regional programs by:

- Developing additional lines of evidence for providing greater confidence in the water quality improvements delivered by on-ground projects where there were no existing methods for measuring outcomes. Out of six alternate methods identified, four have been developed, tested and for the most part finalised (the grazing land management, mill mud distribution, catchment scale runoff from mill mud application, and Nitrogen use efficiency). One of the remaining ones (measuring savings from improving irrigation efficiency in the Mackay Whitsunday region) is soon to be finalised, while the other one (measuring savings from precision agriculture) found insufficient information to develop a method beyond existing tools. Next steps will be for GBRF to use the five new methods to calculate the savings of relevant projects document and publish for future use of the wider Reef water quality community.
- Providing technical support across all DIN and pesticide-focused projects that involve water quality monitoring. A final workshop on communicating water quality science was held with representatives from all delivery

providers. Projects shared key findings, messaging and challenges, with support focusing on effective interpretation and communication of water quality data. Sessions included practical communication strategies and addressing the complexities of misinformation and how this can create barriers to water quality science communication. Next steps include developing multiple case studies for major media coverage and dissemination through social media, newsletters and the new WQ information hub that will be developed and hosted by TropWATER in the long-term.

- Measuring the social changes occurring through the regional and conservation programs. More specifically, this consultancy is looking at four matters: how effective is participatory water quality monitoring as an engagement strategy; the benefits and drawbacks to landholders of participating in large-scale restoration projects; how the governance of the Regional programs and Eastern Cape York (ECY) program have enabled collaboration compared to previous models; and the extent to which the ECY program has built local capacity and met their local partners' aspirations (including Traditional Owner groups). Data collection on evaluation tools, interviews with all partners to assess the governance model, and data collation and analysis from the other components was completed with final analysis and reporting as the next steps.
- Implementing a behavioural change strategy tailored to the mix of social factors of the landholder population in the Mackay-Whitsunday regional program. The centrepiece of the strategy resulted in the web portal [CaneRise](#), which is as a springboard to centralise regional information, promote key messages and engage and connect farmers in a positive way to actions that improve water quality. The portal has a significant amount of content and is regularly updated with grower stories and educational resources and has received good feedback from the community. The end game is for the website to trigger greater awareness about water quality links to management practices and promote positive practices. The GBRF is looking for opportunities for future investors to continue to fund this portal and for a local organisation to manage it, as it represents a valuable asset to support practice change in the region.
- Reviewing the extent and quality of remediation works undertaken by delivery partners across sediment reduction programs. Individual site inspections were completed on randomly selected rehabilitated major gully networks and streambank sites by an independent consultant. The overall findings demonstrated the on-ground works were carried out using standard industry practices and techniques, were broadly consistent with the designs approved and are delivering the anticipated reductions in sediment loads. In some cases, the inspection identified issues that may pose risk for the mid and long-term effectiveness of works, particularly for incised gully systems with very hostile subsoils and where sourcing adequate materials is challenging. Where appropriate and feasible, the Foundation will endeavour to address the most critical issues within the final year of the Program ensuring remediated sites are largely operating as expected.

The TAG will also continue playing a key role in reviewing case studies, monitoring and remediation reports and will support final project reviews when required.

Innovation and system change

The Partnership continues delivering an innovation and system change program, aiming to produce transformational change in the way water quality improvement activities are designed, funded, and implemented. A total of 22 projects were contracted in 2020-2021 under the three workstreams described below. Sixteen of these projects have now been completed, with all outstanding projects to be finalised in 2024-2025.

- *Technology transformation* – Ongoing implementation of eight projects trialling a range of tools and approaches for reducing priority pollutants.
- *Broad and local-scale planning to support future interventions* – Two projects are still underway to support the prioritisation of future strategic investments, to assess the suitability of different interventions, and to guide the identification and implementation of specific on-ground activities.
- *Innovative finance and funding* – Ongoing implementation of three projects aimed at increasing the potential sources of funding for water quality improvement activities.

Innovation projects that have progressed well and demonstrated promising technologies, and tangible financial solutions have been extended or are under review for extension (Australia Seaweed Institute – seaweed biofilter solution with potential to remove large amount of DIN; Farmacist – banana yield monitoring system; AutoWeed – robotics and AI to reduce pesticide application; CSIRO – Nitrogen Risk Insurance). These projects are advancing well towards commercialisation, implementation and large spatial deployment and/or systems change.

The *Sharing and management of industry and landholder-owned data* thematic area was not pursued due to time limitations and multiple complexities inherent to the roll out of a program of this nature. An Options Paper prepared by an independent consultant and reviewed by the Working Group and the GBRF did not provide a clear value proposition with final recommendation towards exploring other priority areas to reallocate funds within the Innovation portfolio or other water quality initiatives.

Successes under the Innovation workstream have been promoted via different communication channels including webinars, videos, stories, and final reports. A final paper and/or communication product to share the findings and advancement of the Innovation program will be developed during the 2024-2025 period.

Protection and conservation of less-disturbed catchments

In 2023-2024, the GBRF made further significant progress on its now three substantive initiatives:

- Water quality management program in the southern catchment areas in Eastern Cape York.
- Development of new modelling tools to assist the prioritisation of wetland restoration or construction for the purpose of maximising nutrient removal.
- Building upon and enhancing eReefs to implement a coastal floodplain modelling capability that can be applied across GBR catchments to assist with the prioritisation of coastal wetland restoration.

In 2024-2025, continued implementation and completion of these initiatives will occur.

East Cape York Water Quality Program (ECY WQP)

This Program is coordinated by the Cape York Water Partnership Inc. and delivered by four local, community-based organisations: South Cape York Catchments, South Endeavour Trust, Cape York Water Partnership, and Yuku Baja Muliku Traditional Owner Corporation. The scope of works of the regional coordinator was adjusted to further develop a legacy strategy to describe the future priorities for the program and identify potential alternate sources of funding post-RTP. The Program Steering Committee met regularly during the 2023-2024 period and will continue with quarterly meetings in 2024-2025 providing independent advice.

The seven projects continue with implementation, having achieved now substantial sediment reduction through the repair of gullies, roads and track erosion, and preventative fire planning. Cyclone Jasper had a significant impact on the region causing major damage to roads, properties and equipment and changing the landscape with thousands of landslips and significant erosion in riparian zones. It also caused major disruptions to people's livelihoods. While the remediated sites held well, it is still too soon to understand the full picture of the aftermath. The availability of contractors and equipment and lack of resourcing in general continues to be raised, with the GBRF working closely with regional partners to support critical areas.

The ECY WQP was extended until end June 2025 to allow full completion of projected activities, maximise program-wide outcomes, and consolidate the work that partner organisations have successfully been delivering under the current governance model. Despite some delays associated with the impacts of Cyclone Jasper, annual work plans for 2024-2025 have been developed for each of the seven projects and endorsed by the GBRF.

Traditional Owner involvement is central to this program. To date, the ECY WQP has provided significant engagement opportunities for over 120 Traditional Owners from 11 Traditional Owner organisations. This has occurred through certification, employment fee-for-service engagements by conducting on-ground surveys, fire management and monitoring activities. In 2024-2025 this process of engagement and employment of Traditional Owners will continue and expand.

Water quality and ecosystem monitoring activities continue as planned, involving Traditional Owners in training, sampling and data gathering. Further, this initiative was uniquely situated to assess the environmental impacts of the cyclone and flooding, and to share information with the local community and national media. The Water Quality Monitoring Program will provide the first datasets to be collected on most of the river systems in this region of Eastern Cape York and will provide a valuable baseline and systematic review of water quality and ecosystem health.

Wetland Restoration Prioritisation

Prioritisation of wetland restoration and/or construction requires good monitoring data and predictive modelling capability. In 2023-2024, the GBRF continued to engage with C2O Consulting on the 2022 Scientific Consensus Statement (SCS) project, specifically addressing the role of wetlands in DIN removal. The SCS progress involved a literature review and workshops with lead authors on four specific themes on wetland processes, the role of wetlands in the landscape and the cost-effectiveness of wetlands as treatments for nitrogen removal. The project is in the final communications phase with public release scheduled for June 2024.

Additionally, in 2023-2024 the GBRF has worked closely with Alluvium Consulting for the development of a modelling tool for wetland hydrology and nutrients with a focus on reducing total nitrogen and DIN in receiving waters for the GBR. To assist with the technical integrity of this project, the GBRF and the Queensland Department of Environment, Science, and Innovation (DESI) convened several meetings of the expert Technical Advisory Committee to review the project team's 'model development pathway'. Once complete in 2024-2025, this new tool will fill a major gap and be used as the basis for future investment in wetlands for nitrogen reduction.

Coastal Wetland Modelling

eReefs is an integrated operational catchment and marine information platform that delivers environmental intelligence to guide environmental decisions, which has been funded from the IMR Component of the RTP (2020-2024). While eReefs has focused primarily on quantifying the downstream impacts of catchments on reef water quality and habitat condition, ongoing development will better represent the processes occurring in estuaries and on coastal flood plains and associated coastal vegetation including mangroves, saltmarsh, supratidal forests and seagrass.

To complement the wetland prioritisation tool and wetland monitoring efforts already underway within the WQ Component, a project has commenced to develop a GBR-wide tidal model. The model will provide accurate tidal movements up estuaries and across floodplains that can be used to define conditions to inform the viability of Blue Carbon projects.

Strategically, this work is foundational to building additional coastal wetlands functionality within eReefs that end-users are asking for, including assessing their role in (a) providing nutrient filtration to meet end of catchment water quality targets, (b) the coastal protection service afforded by these wetlands from fluvial and storm and surge inundation events, and (c) assessing environmental market and future landscape opportunities for GBR catchments. The project will be completed during 2024-2025.





Communication, transition and legacy work.

In addition to the final evaluation, the Foundation will develop a series of communication products and legacy documents to ensure the key elements of the model, achievements, lessons, and recommendations are consolidated and accessible to the public, funders and future Scientific Consensus Statements. These will be packaged into stories of success, regional mini report cards and summary final reports which will be shared on the GBRF website and will target mostly landholders, growers, delivery partners and the general audience. Further, a series of peer reviewed publications across key topics will be developed including, the design and delivery approach of the RTP WQ Program, lessons from the Cane programs, lessons from the Grazing programs, the Eastern Cape York program as a case of a successful integrated catchment management, and best practice Monitoring and Evaluation in a large multidimensional program. These products will be distributed to key partners including the Australian and Queensland Governments, advisors and researchers via email and will be available in the RTP legacy GBRF website.



Water Quality Six-Year Plan

Major categories of activity, rationale, and budget for the six-year period are shown in Table 2 for reference.

Table 2: Water Quality Component Partnership Activities and Budget

Partnership Activity	Rationale	Outcome	Budget
 Early investment activities	A need was identified to address existing delivery capacity constraints for on-ground activities, as well as mitigate the risk of losing current extension and delivery staff during the program development phase.	Maintain/build on-ground capacity across moderate, high and very high priority catchments to support program implementation, while also reducing pollutant run-off.	\$19.1m
  Regionally-focused on-ground actions	Limited funding relative to the total cost of achieving the WQIP objectives requires a strategic and targeted approach to addressing the highest priority pollutants in the highest priority catchments. There is now significant experience in implementing water quality improvement activities, although a more targeted approach is required that adopts the most cost-effective actions, improves upon them, and extends adoption. Investments in specific catchments have been determined by a detailed technical assessment, supported by a decision-making process that considered a range of value drivers and objectives.	Reduce dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) runoff in the Wet Tropics (Johnstone, Tully, Mulgrave Russell, Herbert), Burdekin (Lower Burdekin/Haughton), and Mackay-Whitsunday (Plane Creek) regions, primarily via practice change related to fertiliser and irrigation management in the sugarcane industry.	\$62.5m
		Reduce anthropogenic fine sediment (FS) runoff from the Burdekin (Bowen Bogie, Upper and East Burdekin), Wet Tropics (Herbert River), Fitzroy (Lower Fitzroy and Mackenzie), and Burnett Mary (Mary River) regions, including through restoration of the landscape (gullies and streambanks) and improved management of grazing lands.	\$62.2m
		Reduce pesticide runoff in Burdekin (Lower Burdekin/Haughton), and Mackay-Whitsunday (Plane Creek and Pioneer River) regions, including through practice change, particularly in the sugarcane industry.	\$7.1m
 Conservation and protection of less disturbed catchments	This mitigates the risk of degradation of less disturbed catchments and relies on the expectation that prevention and early intervention are more cost-effective than repair.	Avoid degradation of the quality of water entering the Reef, particularly from less-disturbed catchments, and contribution to land stewardship objectives. Better understanding of role of wetlands in mitigating pollutant runoff.	\$11.5m

Reef Trust Partnership

	Traditional Owner-led Reef protection initiatives	Protect and maintain culture and heritage values for water sources (including cultural flows). Diversification of skillsets/capacity building – improved inclusion. This budget figure is also accounted for in Traditional Owner Reef Protection.	Direct investment in Traditional Owner Country-based planning and management for improved water quality outcomes; improved capacity and opportunity for Traditional Owner enterprises to become engaged in water quality programs; cultural value recognised in protection and improvement efforts.	\$20m
	Innovation and system change	There is a need for a transformational change in how water quality improvement activities are designed, funded, and implemented to support enduring and self-sustaining improvements at sufficient scale.	New systems, technologies, and financing options available to support water quality improvement activities and achieve enduring impact.	\$13m
	Technical advisory	Technical expertise is required to guide program design and implementation, to ensure the quality of on ground actions, to manage project data, and to validate outcomes. There are also opportunities to leverage project activities to maximise scientific learning.	Programs and projects are designed/endorsed based on best available technical advice. Purpose-build GIS database is available to collate and allow for analysis of project data. Programs contribute to improved scientific understanding of Reef water quality issues and responses. Alluvium report on investment pathways and online interface for development and assessment of investment scenarios.	\$4m
TOTAL INVESTMENT				\$199m

Water Quality Annual Work Plan: 2024-2025

Major categories of activity, deliverables, and budget for the 2024-2025 FY are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Water Quality Component investment areas and budget for 2024-2025

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
<p>Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) and pesticide regional on-ground programs</p> <p>Implementation of major DIN and pesticide reduction programs in the Lower Herbert, Lower Burdekin, Mackay-Whitsunday, Mulgrave-Russell, Tully and Johnstone catchments</p>	<p>All five regional water quality improvement programs (DIN) are underway, with a total of 24 on-ground projects close to completion. While most regional programs are expected to complete whole of program activities by the end of June 2024, some projects will continue for a further 3, 6 or 12 months. Regional program managers and partnership coordinators (where applicable) are in place for the larger programs to oversee and coordinate final actions. Final pollutant reductions will be reported by delivery providers using the GBRF’s database system. Regional summary reports and legacy products will be developed and disseminated. Final Steering Committee meetings and forums will be held to close programs and celebrate achievements.</p> <p>Deliverables: Continued implementation and wrap up of project activities related to pollutant reduction of DIN and pesticides at end of catchment. Development of regional summary reports and legacy products to share publicly.</p>	\$4m
<p>Fine sediment on-ground regional programs</p> <p>Implementation of fine sediment reduction programs in the Fitzroy, Upper Herbert, Burdekin (Bowen, Broken Bogie, and Upper and East Burdekin) and Mary River catchments</p>	<p>All five regional water quality improvement programs (FS) are underway, with a total of 11 on-ground projects close to completion. While most regional programs are expected to complete whole of program activities by the end of June 2024, some projects will continue for a further 3, 6 or 12 months. Regional program managers and partnership coordinators (where applicable) are in place for the larger programs to oversee and coordinate final actions. On-site inspection of final large-scale streambank restoration site in the BBB is scheduled for December 2024. Remediated sites will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for further maintenance/repairs and a revegetation and maintenance program will be implemented in the Mary region. Final pollutant reductions will be reported by delivery providers using the GBRF’s database system. Regional summary reports and legacy products will be developed and disseminated. A desktop evaluation will be finalised to understand the impact of landscape remediation projects. Final Steering Committee meetings and forums will be held to close programs and celebrate achievements.</p> <p>Deliverables: Continued implementation, maintenance and wrap up of project activities on gully and streambank restoration and improved land management practices resulting in a long-term reduction in fine sediment at end of catchment. Pollutant reductions reported by delivery providers under the GBRF’s database system. Development of regional summary reports and legacy products to share publicly.</p>	\$4.3m

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
<p>Innovation and systems change</p> <p>Implementation of projects related to innovation and systems change</p>	<p>Technology transformation</p> <p>A total of 11 projects trialling a range of new technologies commenced implementation in 2020-2021. This includes seven projects focused on technologies, methods and approaches for reducing DIN and pesticides, and four projects related to fine sediments (three of which have been completed).</p> <p>Two projects under this thematic area have been extended with additional funding given their potential to contribute to a future step-change in the way water quality improvement activities are undertaken. The AutoWeed-JCU project is awaiting review for potential funded extension and is looking to expand and add significant value to several elements of the technology.</p> <p>Sharing and management of industry and landholder-owned data This thematic area was not pursued due to time limitations and complexities inherent to a program of this nature. Because the commissioned Options Paper exercise did not provide a clear value proposition, the final recommendation was to reallocate funds within the Innovation portfolio or other RTP initiatives.</p> <p>Broad and local scale planning/mapping of future interventions These projects aim to develop a suite of mapping and planning tools to guide future water quality interventions.</p> <p>Only one project under this theme is underway and will be extended with no cost implications. This project is focused on preventing erosion and sediment loss by better identifying and repairing risk areas in the unsealed road network.</p> <p>Innovation financing and funding initiatives</p> <p>Five projects were contracted in 2020-2021 to trial novel financial mechanisms that could drive water quality improvement.</p> <p>Only one project under this theme is still underway and is awaiting review for potential funded extension. The Nitrogen Risk Insurance project is looking for a small extension to work with agricultural advisors by raising awareness campaigns to embed the N Risk Insurance into the sugar industry’s nutrient management processes and grow the considerable water quality benefits that are possible with this innovative product.</p> <p><i>Deliverables: Continued implementation and wrap up of remaining innovation projects currently underway. Development of a final paper and/or communication product to share the findings of the Innovation program.</i></p>	<p>\$1.5m</p>
<p>Conservation and protection of less disturbed catchments</p> <p>Scoping options and planning</p>	<p>The three main types of activities prioritised for this workstream have significantly progressed in 2023-2024 and will continue to be implemented and completed during 2024-2025:</p> <p>Eastern Cape York Water Quality Program</p> <p>The ECY WQP program continues at pace, being delivered by four local community-based organisations and coordinated by a local partner. Seven catchment management projects currently underway are reducing erosion and sediment runoff to the Reef from roads and tracks, gullies and hot, uncontrolled, late season fires. Traditional</p>	<p>\$3m</p>

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
	<p>Owner participation and cultural connectivity and engagement are central to this program.</p> <p>Wetland restoration prioritisation</p> <p>In 2023-2024 several knowledge and information gaps were identified in relation to the role of wetlands in nutrient removal from GBR catchments. The GBRF commenced a project to better define these gaps and develop a detailed scientific consensus of the new scientific knowledge associated to this topic. This detailed analysis is now being integrated into the 2022 Scientific Consensus Statement.</p> <p>In 2023-2024 the GBRF, in conjunction with DESI, contracted a consortium led by Alluvium Consulting to develop updated or new modelling tools to enable investors and governments to have greater confidence in what nitrogen reductions can be achieved from a variety of constructed or natural wetlands under various hydrologic conditions. Under the guidance of a Technical Advisory Committee, this project is proceeding well and will have new modelling tools developed by May 2025.</p> <p>Coastal wetland modelling</p> <p>This new project is contracted and on track to develop a GBR-wide tidal model that provides accurate tidal movements up estuaries and across floodplains that can then be used to define conditions for project scale assessment of inundation as part of continued investment to build upon and enhance eReefs as a decision support tool for coastal wetlands. This project has recently commenced and will have new modelling tools developed by June 2025.</p> <p><i>Deliverables: Continued implementation and wrap up of remaining projects currently underway. Development of summary reports, modelling tools and legacy products to share publicly.</i></p>	
<p>Technical advisory group (TAG) and other technical support</p>	<p>The TAG will continue to provide independent expert advice to the GBRF across all WQ workstreams. This includes supporting project and program reviews and providing technical review of monitoring data and reports. Final on-ground verification of largescale remediation sites will occur in December 2024.</p> <p>Technical support will be provided to projects (extended beyond June 2024) that involve water quality monitoring, with a focus on supporting communication aspects and developing specific 'knowledge narratives' on water quality outcomes.</p> <p><i>Deliverables: Provision of technical support across water quality monitoring activities. Final on-ground verification and reporting on largescale remediation.</i></p>	<p>\$1.2m</p>
<p>Traditional Owner-led water quality activities</p>	<p>Refer to Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component</p>	
<p>TOTAL INVESTMENT</p>		<p>\$14m</p>

Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) Control Component

Partnership Budget: \$59.5m (includes an additional \$1.7m of funds derived from interest earned on the RTP investment to specifically fund a CCIP transition year)

2024-2025 budget: \$2.86m





Purpose: To expand efforts to control Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) to reduce coral mortality from COTS outbreaks, in order to protect high ecological and economic value coral reefs in line with GBRMPA's COTS Control Strategy.

Priorities under the Partnership Investment Strategy

- Support existing in-water COTS control and drive improved efficiency
- Lead a step change in surveillance for early COTS detection and early intervention
- Explore alternative control methods to address COTS management at a broad scale in the future

End-of-Partnership Outcomes

The Reef Trust Partnership's COTS Control Component will result in:

 <p>Reduced coral mortality from COTS outbreaks at high-value reefs</p>	 <p>Improved methods to manage COTS at scale have been identified</p>	 <p>Expanded delivery partners involved in COTS management (Traditional Owner enterprises)</p>	 <p>Strategy for long term funding is available for influencing/advocacy</p>
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COTS focus in 2024-2025:

















As CCIP draws to a close, a range of outputs (e.g. knowledge, models, tools, plans) have been developed that can be operationalised in the COTS Control Program's processes and systems. This year will focus on finalising the reporting outputs of 20 R&D Phase projects, including their technical reports and publications. The insights and lessons learned through the innovation program will be communicated and shared with key stakeholders. Links to reports and publications will be made publicly available on the CCIP page of the GBRF website. One project's R&D activities will continue to December 2024 through a no-cost extension to ensure that the technology achieves readiness to trial in a COTS management context.

Given that future R&D funding for COTS remains uncertain, new funding has been sourced that will support a transition year to maintain the capability and momentum developed through CCIP. Working in partnership with the COTS Control Program and CCIP partners, this funding will support the integration of key CCIP project outputs and their operationalisation in COTS management. This will enable the integration of findings of the research to maximise the impact and enduring outcomes of the investment. It will also use the 2030 COTS Research and Innovation Roadmap to guide the design of a future R&D program that includes applied research and technological innovation, that is co-designed with managers and Traditional Owners.

COTS Control Six-Year Plan

Our six-year plan for the COTS Control Component includes the nine Partnership activities outlined in Table 4.

Table 4: COTS Control Component Partnership activities and budget

Partnership Activity	Rationale	Outcome	Budget
 COTS Control	Controlling crown-of-thorns starfish is the most scalable and practical tool we currently have to protect our Reef's corals. The Partnership's COTS control program is by far the largest-scale intervention program happening right now on the Reef.	This funding will support continued COTS control at a level consistent with scientific advice and intensity of the current outbreak.	\$41.53m
  COTS Control Innovation: Feasibility Study	This funding will deliver a collaborative feasibility study involving key scientific agencies to systematically investigate the potential of new COTS control options.	Recommendations from this study will guide the subsequent COTS Control Innovation: Implementation activity, with the goal to enhance our ability to predict and detect outbreaks and more effectively control their spread and impact.	\$1.5m
  COTS Control Innovation: Research and Development	Targeted investment in transformational innovations, based on outcomes of the COTS Control Innovation Feasibility Study, can provide a pathway towards a step-change in COTS control.	This funding will enable research and development, testing and implementation of new methods, including early warning systems, early intervention options, alternative control technologies and improved prediction and decision-making.	\$8.49m (previously \$8.33m)
  COTS Control Innovation: Transition	Targeted investment in integration and translation of priority R&D outputs from the COTS Control Innovation Program.	This funding will support the integration of priority research outputs across projects and their operationalisation in COTS Control Program systems and processes. It will also support activities that inform the design of a future R&D program.	\$1.7m
 Independent scientific reviews	The need for an independent review of COTS control program effectiveness was highlighted during Partnership consultations (including with the Reef 2050 Independent Expert Panel).	The COTS control program is continuously evolving, and its effectiveness will benefit from an independent review.	\$0.08m (previously \$0.19m)
   COTS Forums	Regular forums dedicated to COTS research and management are planned for 2021 and 2024, focused on identifying innovation priorities and to address the long-term challenge of COTS control.	These forums will enable cross-sector dialogue and support long-term planning of innovation in COTS management.	\$0.2m
   Long-term funding strategy	COTS control is critical to the health of the Reef long-term and an appropriate funding strategy is needed to ensure enduring outcomes.	This funding will provide a comprehensive business case and real options to support planning and policy development for long-term funding of COTS management.	\$0.13m
  Community-driven COTS control	The role of community and citizen science to engage more widely in COTS control has been identified as an opportunity to expand delivery partner capacity.	This funding will identify opportunities to support community and citizen science participation in COTS control and implement pilot programs.	\$0.1m

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● Traditional ● Owner-led COTS control (refer Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component).		This funding will identify and deliver training to upskill Traditional Owners and provide funding to enable COTS control activities. It will also support business-ready Traditional Owner groups to transition to manual COTS control activities.	\$5.8m
TOTAL COTS CONTROL COMPONENT BUDGET:			\$59.5m

COTS Control Annual Work Plan: 2024-2025

Major categories of activity, deliverables and budget for 2024-2025 are shown in Table 5.

Table 5: COTS Control Component investment areas and budget for 2024-2025

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
COTS Control Innovation Program – R&D Phase	<p>Activities related to finalising the reporting outputs of CCIP R&D Phase projects which completed in June 2024, and support their synthesis and communication with stakeholders. This activity also includes a no-cost extension of R&D activities for project CCIP-D-04 to December 2024.</p> <p>Deliverables: 20 Technical Reports, Output Register, Program Synthesis report that demonstrate the outcomes of the research and their management impact.</p>	\$1.16m
COTS Control Innovation Program – Transition and planning activities	<p>Activities focused on the integration of priority research outputs and their operationalisation in COTS Control Program systems and processes. This will also support activities that inform the planning and design of a future R&D program based on the 2030 COTS Research and Innovation Roadmap.</p> <p>Deliverables: New knowledge, tools and capabilities developed through the R&D program will be translated and operationalised, working closely with COTS management partners. Focused planning and workshops will be used to scope future R&D program, building on the outputs and outcomes of CCIP.</p>	\$1.7m
TOTAL INVESTMENT		\$2.86m

Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component

Partnership Budget: \$51.8m¹

2024-2025 budget: \$11.657m

Purpose: To improve the engagement of Traditional Owners in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Priorities under the Partnership Investment Strategy

- Land and sea action and investment planning
- Active Traditional Owner-led Reef protection activities
- Indigenous innovation, leadership and collaboration
- Sustainable Funding (Futures Fund)

End-of-Partnership Outcomes

The Reef Trust Partnership's Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component will result in:

 <p>Traditional Owner co-design action framework is implemented across the Partnership to help build capacity</p>	 <p>Benefits to Traditional Owners engaged in Sea Country Management improve</p>	 <p>Traditional Owner participation in governance arrangements for Reef protection and management is improved</p>
 <p>The first stage of a Great Barrier Reef Traditional Owner Futures Fund is in place and operating effectively</p>	 <p>Traditional Owners' on-country activities contribute to Reef biocultural health</p>	 <p>Improved cultural awareness within Partnership projects and partners</p>

¹ The [Investment Strategy](#) describes the GBRF's commitment to allocate a minimum of \$42m to Traditional Owner-led Reef protection actions under the Reef Trust Partnership. This includes a minimum of 10% from each of the Water Quality, COTS Control, Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science, and Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component budgets towards co-designed Traditional Owner-led activities. When combined with the \$12m allocated towards Indigenous Reef Protection in the [Grant Agreement](#), this equates to \$51.8m.

Progress on our journey

Over 70 saltwater Traditional Owner groups span the length of the Great Barrier Reef, from the Torres Strait Islands in the north to Bundaberg in the South. When we factor in the connected waterways and wetlands of the Reef Catchment, the number of Traditional Owner groups linked to the Reef and its health doubles. The Reef is a dynamic biocultural land and seascape with enduring connections to Traditional Owners that sustain ongoing cultural practice, custom and responsibilities. It sits at the heart of so many people's identity, health and wellbeing.

At the recent 2024 Ocean Decade Conference the Traditional Owner Advisory Group Chair was asked “*Why is the Reef important?*” Her reply was “*because it’s home*”. This connection and relationship with place are non-negotiables for Traditional Owners since the Reef was created. It is this foundational understanding and the intrinsic value of 10,000 years of Traditional Owner intergenerational knowledge development that will continue to drive the work that the GBRF undertakes in partnership with Traditional Owners moving forward. As different environmental and social urgencies emerge with the escalation of climate change and failure for First Nations peoples to obtain Constitutional recognition, we have these underlying principles to keep us on track and motivated in our work together.

An early learning from the RTP program was that having meaningful and respectful partnerships with Traditional Owners was essential for co-design to occur. The governance framework of 22 positions (held by 17 Traditional Owners) has been maintained. It is this continuity of advice and trust that continues to provide the direction and true north for the program. As the RTP shifts into evaluating and reporting on final outcomes of projects and the program, the GBRF will maintain support for ongoing activities within the Traditional Owner Reef Protection area that has been carefully curated through our co-design approach as well as communicating and sharing those experiences. The RTP delivery extension to June 2026 for this Component will also provide an opportunity to fully consider and capitalise the impacts of the program, capture the lessons learned and provide advice for future programs that can lend themselves to the transformational path that the GBRF and Traditional Owners have set themselves on.

Key achievements to date include:

- Delivering outcomes for land, sea and community with more than 4,889 Traditional Owners involved in the delivery of 79 Reef protection projects led by 49 Traditional Owner groups
- Advocating for changed processes that see Traditional Owners involved and consulted in Water Quality planning processes at a State and Reef level, including the Scientific Consensus Statement and Water Quality Improvement Plan
- Diving deep into understanding the co-design approach that was created in partnership between the GBRF and Traditional Owners and sharing learnings with external parties
- Gaining a deeper understanding of the supporting governance and operational features that Traditional Owner groups require to maintain their own long-term monitoring and reporting
- Launching the Our Reef stories website which now hosts the RTP project stories and learnings
- Increase in opportunities and the support provided to Reef Traditional Owners attending and speaking at national and international conferences
- Delivering two Traditional Owner designed peer-to-peer learning forums and workshops for Healthy Water
- Elevating Indigenous women voices and creating advocacy for gender equity in environmental programs
- Supporting Traditional Owner Youth in their learning and leadership aspirations

As we move into 2024-2025, we will:

- Continue to manage the on-ground delivery of Traditional Owner activities through existing grant infrastructure within the GBRF to ensure direct and dedicated investment to Traditional Owner priorities
- Increase our focus on training and capacity building for existing and emerging Traditional Owner leadership in both Reef and catchment related areas

- Invest in the identified 'stepping stone' activities that assist Traditional Owners in their biocultural monitoring and reporting ambitions
- Continue to work with Traditional Owners and Reef 2050 partners to advance Traditional Owner leadership in the governance and management of the Great Barrier Reef
- Continue to showcase impact stories from a strategic communication lens that places Traditional Owner voice at the centre of stories
- Support Traditional Owners in presenting and disseminating key learnings of RTP at conferences and workshops
- Look for integrative opportunities that have Traditional Owners working across place-based models of operation or in speciality areas such as seagrass
- Review and report on the implementation of the pilot project of the *Strong Peoples–Strong Country* Framework
- Capture and share learnings, evaluate outcomes and impact and support transition to future models of Traditional Owner funding delivery
- Continue to develop relationships and critical partnerships with Traditional Owners for the Reef and its catchments

Working towards Healthy Country

Along the coast of Queensland, Traditional Owners of the Reef and its Catchment continue to express their need for greater involvement in all stages of caring and managing their Country including policy, planning, implementation and evaluation. This is achievable to the highest standard when:

- Traditional Owners are included in the system as a valued partner
- Indigenous knowledge and traditional sciences are recognised and used in the realm of environmental management and conservation
- There is genuine engagement by partners (including government)
- Traditional Owners are able to have autonomy to care for their own Country

This community-up approach comes with bespoke, local solutions that meet the needs of Country and People and requires adequate resourcing. Through the RTP program directly funding Traditional Owner groups, they control when, where and how they manage their Country. The co-designed program has ensured the GBRF is delivering a best practice approach in management of the Reef and one that is being looked to by many others around Australia and internationally.

The GBRF co-designed grant programs have engaged with 49 Reef and catchment Traditional Owner groups through 79 contracted and supported projects. Across all Traditional Owner Reef Protection projects we have had over 4,889 Traditional Owner engagements, funded seven youth projects resulting in over 590 young people being engaged in on-Country activities, and delivered Women's' Leadership programs that have supported the participation of over 255 women. This has been facilitated predominantly through the six co-designed grant rounds that have been deployed over the last three and a half years. By applying our learnings and successful experiences to each new grant round, the GBRF have remained in a place of continual growth and improvement. This is made possible by working in a co-design partnership with our Traditional Owner governance members through 598 hours of workshops and meetings.

Over the next 12 months, the grant's focus will be on the continued support of grant recipients implementing on-ground projects, through the Helping Country, Community Action Plans and Blue Carbon grants.

Amplifying messages

As the RTP Traditional Owner program has matured, its delivery has led to many successes and lessons learnt. Through different conferences, workshops, and events the governance members have been encouraged to share their story of partnering through the RTP. In addition to national level conferences like AMSA, AITSIS, and Climate

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Change workshops and thinktanks, a delegation of Reef Traditional Owners were supported to attend the 2024 Oceans Decade Conference in Barcelona to talk on the importance of the Great Barrier Reef and share their “Call for Healing” statement to the world. Having First Nations People voices speaking at the highest level is delivering on a long-held aspiration held by Traditional Owners for many years.

The GBRF remains committed to elevating Traditional Owner voices through the continued implementation of the Traditional Owner Strategic Communications Framework, which supports the newly released webpage [Our Reef Stories](#). Here Traditional Owners can share their unique stories through self-determined ways that uplift their communities and create a shared understanding in the broader community of the work they are doing with the assistance of RTP funding. Governance members have also reported that promoting Traditional Owners RTP achievements is having positive flow on impacts for communities in advancing self-determination and realising Traditional Owner rights and interests beyond the Reef.

Transitioning to future directions and working towards Integrating Traditional Owners partnerships




Elevating Traditional Owner contribution and amplifying Traditional Owner voices has established new inclusion pathways through the co-design process. This lays down a critical and stable foundation – as the Reef Trust Partnership has established a higher standard of partnership delivery and provided the momentum for Traditional Owners to lead on the planning and delivery of their own Country-based work.

With the RTP two-year extension now formalised, the GBRF is continuing to work within existing co-design governance arrangements to consider how Traditional Owners wish to transition the work created under the RTP. Governance structures and methods of working need to remain fit for purpose as our partnership evolves, while recognising that the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Task Force will have a critical role for Traditional Owner engagement around the Reef 2050 Plan and its implication for holistic management of the Great Barrier Reef. As a key element highlighted in the new Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Implementation Plan, the establishment of this taskforce with a coordination function will engage with Traditional Owners throughout the Reef to socialise the plan, along with consideration and establishment of a sea country alliance, and co-investment to the Traditional Owner Futures Fund. As this work is initiated, the GBRF will play an important part to ensure continuity of care for Traditional Owner governance members and maintaining momentum in the system, while using the opportunity to look for the gaps and priorities that non-government partners can lean into. Together with the Reef 2050 new Traditional Owner Taskforce, the GBRF will continue to advocate this legacy work.




Traditional Owner Reef Protection Seven-Year Plan

Our seven-year plan for the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component includes the Partnership Activities outlined in Table 6.

Table 6: Traditional Owner Reef Protection Partnership Activities and Budgets

Partnership Activity	Rationale	Description	Budget
Indigenous innovation, leadership and collaboration			\$5m
 <p>Traditional Owner Partnership Governance</p>	Leadership and capacity-building	The Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component provides an unprecedented opportunity for Reef Traditional Owners to action key recommendations and priorities for the management of Country that have been consistently identified and documented over the past two decades.	This activity will support leadership activities that build and strengthen the capacity and capability of Traditional Owners to actively participate in the Partnership.
	Strategic communication and engagement	Traditional Owner engagement in the Partnership aims to strengthen active participation and decision-making, with co-designed programs and projects delivering improvements to equitable outcomes and maximising co-benefits.	Effective communication and engagement of Reef Traditional Owners remains a critical priority throughout the Partnership.
	Co-design action framework		This activity involves the development of a Reef co-design (co-benefit) framework with Traditional Owners, Reef 2050 partners and the broader community.
Traditional Owner Futures Fund			\$10m
 <p>Establish a Traditional Owner Futures Fund</p>	Independent and sustainable financing is needed to support governance, future leadership activities (such as student scholarships) and strategic investments which build Traditional Owner capacity and capability in Reef management.	This activity aims to provide a sustainable funding stream for Traditional Owner Reef protection activities through the \$10m allocated to this fund and invested in term deposits.	
Active Traditional Owner-led Reef protection activities			\$36.8m
 <p>Crown-of-Thorns starfish control</p>	<p>There is a recognised need for Traditional Owner groups to be directly involved in decision-making and management of reefs and activities on their Sea Country.</p> <p>There is a need to create culturally appropriate pathways for Traditional Owners to increase employment opportunities, build partnerships, co-design programs, diversify skillsets and lead economic enterprises related to COTS surveillance and control.</p>	This work supports activities that improve Traditional Owner participation in crown-of-thorns starfish control and facilitates training and service delivery partnerships.	\$5.3m

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Partnership Activity		Rationale	Description	Budget
	Reef monitoring and reporting	<p>Traditional Owners are the keepers of Indigenous Knowledge and cultural values and have observed dramatic changes on their country. The <i>Strong Peoples–Strong Country</i> framework provides the basis for understanding the Reef as a biocultural ecosystem and requires investment to develop indicators to understand the condition and status of Indigenous heritage in the Reef.</p> <p>There is a need to resource Traditional Owners to build capacity and diversify skill sets to enable recording and appropriate sharing of Indigenous Knowledge and information.</p>	Traditional Owner knowledge forms a critical part of building a holistic understanding of the condition and trend of Reef values. This work aims to implement the <i>Strong Peoples–Strong Country</i> framework, including negotiation of data-sharing agreements, audit of monitoring skills, tools and assets and development and implementation of education and employment pathways.	\$3.5m
	Healthy water	<p>Traditional Owners require better engagement in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan and related funding opportunities. Consideration of Indigenous values in current water quality programs are needed to improve decision-making.</p>	<p>This work aims to improve Traditional Owner access to, and active participation in, water quality projects through grants, a water literacy toolkit and assistance from a coordinator.</p> <p>Adoption of co-design approaches in the Reef Trust Partnership Water Quality Component will improve active participation and maximise benefits for Traditional Owners.</p>	\$17m
	Reef restoration and adaptation	<p>Traditional Owners hold inherent rights to the Reef and have successfully cared for their traditional country since time immemorial. Over the last century, they have witnessed increased pressures and a changing environment. This carries with it a deep sadness for the loss of their Country's healthy. Traditional Owners must therefore form part of the solution to improve the health of the Reef.</p> <p>There is a need to create culturally appropriate pathways and make resources available for Traditional Owners to diversify skillsets, build capacity, contribute to and lead research, and formalise education and employment pathways to heal country and people.</p>	This work aims to improve Traditional Owner access to and active participation in Reef restoration and adaptation projects.	\$9m

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Partnership Activity		Rationale	Description	Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ● ● 	<p>Early investment: Stage 1 grants program</p>	<p>Country-based planning and implementation provides a structured approach for groups to articulate and understand the values and aspirations of their Land and Sea Country for improved management.</p> <p>There is a need for Indigenous heritage including biocultural systems, culturally significant species and important habitats to be mapped and monitored.</p>	<p>This initial open grant round was launched in early 2019 and addresses three key focus areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Country-based planning 2. Implementation of existing Country-based plans 3. Junior ranger activities. 	<p>\$2m</p>
Total Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component Budget:				\$51.8m

Traditional Owner Reef Protection Annual Work Plan: 2024-2025

Major deliverables and budget under each Partnership Activity for 2023-2024 are shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component Partnership Activities and Budget 2024-2025

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
Indigenous innovation, leadership and collaboration		
Traditional Owner program governance	Ongoing delivery of Traditional Owner Reef Trust Partnership governance arrangements. Deliverables: 1. Traditional Owner Advisory Group to meet up to four times a year. 2. The established Traditional Owner Technical Working Groups to meet in accordance with their terms of reference.	\$0.602m
Leadership and capacity building	This program area will support leadership activities that build and strengthen the capacity and capability of Traditional Owners to actively participate and provide leadership in the Partnership. Deliverables: 1. Coordinate the attendance of Traditional Owners at opportunities and events to further strengthen leadership resilience in performance of governance duties. 2. Support youth initiatives and programs that foster emerging leaders in their career and cultural aspirations in the Reef space.	\$1.132m
Strategic communication and engagement	Effective communication and engagement of Reef Traditional Owners with an emphasis on elevating Traditional Owner voice throughout the Reef and Catchment regions. Deliverables: 1. Implement a Traditional Owner Strategic Communication Framework through the development of products that promote opportunities and achievements and share learnings of the RTP. 2. Host a Traditional Owner Forum to showcase the learnings and work of the Traditional Owner led projects supported by the RTP	\$0.698m
Co-design action framework	Continue to develop the Reef co-design (co-benefit) framework with Traditional Owners, strategic Reef partners and the broader community with a focus on delivering high quality co-evaluation. Deliverables: 1. Continue to offer workshops and learning opportunities on co-design and its delivery with TOAG and TWG members involved. 2. Co-design experiences published. Toolkit pieces identified and developed 3. Indigenous evaluation operational plan escalated	\$0.515m

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Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
Traditional Owner Futures Fund	<p>This activity aims to provide a sustainable funding stream for Traditional Owner Reef protection activities through the \$10m allocated to this fund and invested in term deposits. There is no expenditure required for this area as we work with the Reef 2050 Taskforce to identify the future vision.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with the Reef 2050 Traditional Owner Taskforce to consolidate management of Futures Fund by 2025-26. 2. Funds invested in a term deposit. 	\$0.0m
Active Traditional Owner-led reef protection activities	<p>Ongoing management of three different grant rounds including the design and delivery of the Helping Country grant round</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluation of COTS, RRAS, and IMR projects supported through Stage two and Healing Country grants. 2. Support Traditional Owner Community Action Plan grants in the RTP Community Reef Protection Program. 3. Support Traditional Owner-led seagrass projects in the Blue Carbon program 4. Support delivery and contract management of the Helping Country Grants 5. Support Traditional Owner groups to establish foundational project readiness for Country based monitoring 	\$4.62m
Traditional Owner water quality improvement (Healthy Water)	<p>This work continues to improve Traditional Owner access to and active participation in water quality projects, science and career pathways.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Water grants are supported through to their final delivery steps and evaluation processes are operationalised to understand effectiveness 2. Future direction setting with key government and water quality partners is undertaken, 3. Engagement of two project coordinators to facilitate Traditional Owner engagement and participation. 4. Development of a water quality literacy framework that includes Traditional Owner Resources (Kit). 5. Work with Traditional Owners to understand and implement features of the Traditional Owner Healthy Water RTP component. 	\$1.64m
Traditional Owner Integrated monitoring and reporting	<p>Traditional Owner knowledge forms a critical part of building a holistic understanding of the condition and trend of Reef values. This work sees a completed Strong Peoples–Strong Country framework implemented across four pilot Traditional Owner communities.</p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive data needs by Traditional Owners are mapped. 2. Evaluation of the Strong People–Strong Country Framework is undertaken. 3. Future directions and possible partnerships needed to support Traditional Owners in Integrated monitoring and reporting are explored 	\$0.23m

Reef Trust Partnership

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
Traditional Owner crown-of-thorns starfish control	<p><i>This work supports activities that aim to improve Traditional Owner participation in COTS control and facilitates training and service delivery partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Evaluation of the Traditional Owner leadership training component of the COTS Control Program.</i> <i>2. Project Manager engaged for extension support to positively facilitate Traditional Owners' active engagement and participation in COTS research and governance.</i> 	\$0.88m
Traditional Owner Reef restoration and adaption science	<p><i>This work aims to improve Traditional Owner access to and active participation in Reef restoration and Adaptation projects.</i></p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Project Manager engaged for extension support to positively facilitate Traditional Owners' active engagement and participation in RRAS related projects and programs.</i> <i>2. Healing Country grant program for reef restoration and resilience on-Country activities evaluated and reported on.</i> <i>3. Provide contract management support to the AIMS career and employment pathways project.</i> <i>4. Support Traditional Owner workshops/activities identified in the Cairns-Port Douglas Hub regional approach.</i> 	\$0.98m
TOTAL INVESTMENT		\$11.297m

Community Reef Protection Component

Partnership Budget: \$10.349m

2024-2025 budget: \$2.338m





Purpose: To improve the engagement of the broader community in the protection of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.

Priorities under the Partnership Investment Strategy:

- Strengthening and accelerating on-ground action
- Building understanding, hope and action
- Connecting community with decision-making
- Fostering enduring outcomes through funding, next generation participation and partnerships

End-of-Partnership Outcomes

The Reef Trust Partnership's Community Reef Protection Component will result in:

 <p>A suite of tools for funding and models of community action are available and useful</p>	 <p>Community project contributions are recognised, valued and celebrated</p>	 <p>Projects are delivering effective outcomes for the Reef and community (including other RTP component outcomes)</p>	 <p>Community informs decision making through collaborative planning and community data use</p>
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Progress on the journey

This decade is the pivotal time to shape a better future for the Reef and Reef communities. Every day, community members and organisations across Queensland are demonstrating their commitment and contributions to this cause. Many more people want to help, but aren't sure where to start, or how they can make a difference.

The Community Reef Protection Component aims to respond to the aspirations of individuals and organisations by working with partners to elevate the quantity and quality of engagement in delivering outcomes for the Reef and Reef communities.

The work plan focuses on strengthening local leadership and collaboration to pilot new approaches and accelerate proven approaches that tackle the complexity, scale and urgency of challenges to deliver targeted local change and better connect the contributions of many.

Achievements to date include:

- Enabling locally led environmental and community outcomes, with 80 community on-ground projects delivering citizen science, local action, Community Action Plans (CAPs) and site-based coral recovery and stewardship initiatives.

- Improving collaboration by supporting a diverse range of over 473 partners to work towards breaking down barriers for the greater potential of community-led work through innovation in how work is designed and delivered.
- Boosting community contribution pathways to grow the movement now and in the future. Projects have recorded close to 54,000 participant engagements and almost half of people (46%) were new to activities, and one-third (36%) were youth.
- Building capacity in the system, with partners supporting their communities to connect with, contribute to and lead work through 1,281 training, education and outreach events, 187 leadership and capacity building events, and over 5,000 communication activities.
- Working with partners to sharpen design for impact and building proofs of concept to show the powerful potential of community-led efforts in delivering meaningful change for the Reef and Reef communities.
- Setting up enduring systems change outcomes for the future through strong partnerships, stewardship measurement, and exploring more sustainable program models.
- In 2024-25, the Component will continue growing collective impact with partners through collaborative and adaptive design, as well as exploring ways to maximise enduring outcomes from the work beyond RTP.

The 2024-2025 activities will include:

- On-ground implementation of new Community Climate Action projects, including enabling cross-project connections, technical support and storytelling.
- Ensuring legacy for Citizen Science for Change projects that strengthen and demonstrate pathways to impact for community data and knowledge, including continued work with regional healthy waterway report card partnerships on citizen science integration and future planning.
- Implementing a transition strategy with the Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub network for post-RTP, with a focus on strengthening deeper engagement with Traditional Owners, collaborative pilot projects, knowledge sharing and future planning for the program.
- Enabling ongoing impact for CAP place-based approaches through continued on-ground projects in some areas and planning for future legacy of the program.
- Enhancing targeted community integration across RTP with other components including Traditional Owner Reef Protection, the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (RRAP), and Integrated Monitoring and Reporting (IMR), as well as programs outside of the RTP including the Reef Islands Initiative.
- Defining key legacy opportunities, including sharing learnings and continuing to curate support and funding for community Reef protection work beyond RTP.

Strengthening and accelerating on-ground action

Collectively, on-ground activities are supporting habitat protection and restoration, wildlife conservation and threat reduction. To date, community partners have activated their networks to contribute almost 75,000 volunteer hours. Together they have removed 4,639kg of marine debris across 80 hectares, cleared 10 hectares of weeds, planted more than 4,500 native trees and grasses, and 78,000 corals. They have undertaken 1,669 field days to collect over half a million data points about Reef wildlife and habitats and community data has been used 82 times to inform planning, formal reporting and on-ground actions. Many projects have focused on growing the enabling conditions for current and on-ground community actions – building capacity, collaborations and pathways to strengthen legacy outcomes.

Ten Citizen Science for Change projects have been building on work to date and pushing for new approaches in how community data is collected and applied. These projects are piloting a range of new innovations to augment current citizen science methods including eDNA, drones and photo imagery data. This includes multiple citizen science data use firsts with regional healthy waterway report cards and other government partners, as well as community programs being embedded in management actions and programs – demonstrating the potential of working across community and end data users for thoughtful program design with clear outcomes.

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Learnings and feedback from two local action grant rounds (2019-2021) demonstrated interest in climate action as a shared priority across multiple regions and identified opportunities for strengthening networks for learning and sharing. The remaining investment has been integrated into the Community Climate Action program (see *Building understanding, hope and action*).

In 2023-24, the Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub focused on actions to implement an open collaborative network that connects people to share, learn, and pilot new collaborative approaches to care for reefs in the face of climate change. Activities have brought together Traditional Owners, practitioners, researchers and managers for workshops, sharing sessions, training and networking days. An on-ground Collaborative Monitoring pilot project continued testing ways to deploy and monitor coral seeding devices with RRAP, Traditional Owners and local partners. A new collaborative pilot brought together multiple tourism operators to trial a coordinated approach to understanding natural larval settlement patterns across key reefs. TropWATER and Reef Recruits also launched Spawning School, a practical learning program on how to raise coral larvae for reef restoration with Reef Traditional Custodians. In addition, activities delivered through the Hub, on-ground projects have been funded to explore models for integrating different types of knowledge to support effective site stewardship.

Connecting community with decision making

In 2020-2021, community, science, management, business, youth and Traditional Owners came together to create six CAPs across the Queensland coast. The pilot program aims to support place-based collaborative planning and delivery to enhance community Reef protection actions for the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Following planning, 18 community and Traditional Owner-led projects were catalysed through seed funding and are delivering a range of actions including protecting cultural heritage, undertaking baseline monitoring to inform protection and recovery actions, coastal and wetland recovery activities, climate action pilot projects, and growing youth leadership for the Reef.

CAP Leaders have been providing collective impact backbone support for their regions, and there are examples of CAPs building notable momentum to help deliver a more integrated, collaborative, and impactful approach to community partnerships for Reef protection. Some outcomes include leveraging additional investment for identified priorities, building new governance structures to drive collaborative decision making, and fostering greater cohesion on collective impact approaches.

Interviews with Reef decision makers and influencers (i.e. Reef managers, scientists and local government partners) involved in the CAP development process, demonstrated progress towards end of partnership outcomes. This included changed perceptions about the role that community is playing and recognising community members and organisations as engineers of change. Across regions, CAP Leaders reflected that the biggest change observed through the program was strengthening community Reef protection outcomes through building collaborations and capacity for action through inclusive approaches. In particular, CAP Leaders reflected on improved relationships, engagements, and leadership pathways with Traditional Owners and youth. CAP Leaders have worked with the GBRF to capture learnings and reflections that can help maintain momentum for their work and inform design for other place-based initiatives.

Opportunities for building pathways of impact for community data have also been supported through a project with the regional waterway health report card network to scope using existing citizen science data to help fill gaps in coral reef fish reporting. While further work is needed to build out an indicator, findings have been included across stewardship reporting for the three northern report card partnership areas, and the learnings will shape future work.

Building understanding, hope and action

This is a critical decade for responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis and shaping a better future for Reefs and Reef communities. Supporting new approaches that further amplify local community leadership and mobilise change are critical as part of a broader systems movement.

Reef Trust Partnership

The Community Climate Action program builds on learnings and feedback to date. It aims to accelerate community-led climate action and resilience activities led by Traditional Owners, community organisations, local councils, local businesses and youth to use holistic science and local knowledge that places people at the centre of solutions.

The design also aims to respond to an aspiration to be part of a larger, coordinated initiative that grows collective capacity and tells an overarching story of impact. The approach will focus on opportunities for Reef communities to champion change, deliver social benefits, and build readiness to foster broader participation and connect with the global movement.

Under the RTP, there is a continued focus on working with community partners to increase visibility and awareness of the community-led Reef protection work. This next year will focus strongly on working with project partners to recognise, value and celebrate the collective impact of community efforts to care for the Reef through collaborative storytelling to grow the movement of hope and action for the Reef.

Fostering enduring outcomes

This investment stream focuses on working with project partners to identify areas for community Reef protection to keep growing during and beyond the RTP investment. This includes activities to help better understand the unique value of these efforts, practical tools to help develop program design and delivery, and ways to enhance community Reef protection leadership.

Working with project partners and the People and Reef Organisations Tackling Environmental Change Together (PROTECT) IMR stewardship project, we are learning more about how stewardship can be defined, monitored, measured, and communicated. A Community Stewardship for the Reef Toolkit is being continuously developed based on learnings and the PROTECT team continues to offer tailored support for project partners to implement the learnings and test the suite of resources for ongoing refinement.

Sustainable resourcing is central to more sustainable community programs, so the GBRF is also working with partners to understand models that support this outcome. A Community Funding and Models Toolkit was developed and trialled with CAP Leaders to build understanding about the current funding landscape and explore approaches to further enable community Reef protection work.






Ultimately, it is a network of inspired individuals and organisations with a sense of agency in making real change that will continue driving community Reef protection efforts. Through RTP, the GBRF has been adaptively looking for opportunities to work with partners to elevate community leadership for the Reef. One example is the newly launched Queensland Marine Turtle Network that seeks to better connect community based marine turtle monitoring and conservation groups across the state. This network aims to support the people that care for turtles, which was a key priority across CAP regions and builds on site-based citizen science investment in turtle monitoring to date.

In the next stages of RTP, the GBRF will continue working with partners to develop useful tools and resources that support their work and shape how the GBRF embeds the commitment to community-led conservation in the future facing strategy.

Community Reef Protection Six-Year Plan

Our six-year plan for the Community Reef Protection Component includes eight Partnership Activities outlined in Table 8.

Table 8: Community Reef Protection Component Partnership Activities and Budget

Partnership Activity	Rationale	Outcome	Budget
 Citizen science	Citizen science engages the community in data collection and sharing to increase understanding about the condition of Reef habitats and species. There is greater potential for citizen science to inform decision-making and enhance social and ecological benefits.	This activity is supporting strategic and collaborative citizen science data collection, reporting and application.	\$3.0m
 Local-scale coral restoration and stewardship	Assisted coral recovery is an emerging priority as a tool to build Reef and community resilience in the face of climate change.	This activity is supporting the development of a Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub to connect people to share, learn, and pilot new collaborative approaches to care for reefs in the face of climate change. Investment is also enabling on-ground projects to accelerate coral recovery and site stewardship, with learnings shared across the Hub network.	\$1.1m
 Local action	Collaborative community-led action, informed by local knowledge, has a valuable role to play in building local Reef and community resilience in the face of climate change. This program taps into collective knowledge and networks of GBRMPA's Local Marine Advisory Committees spanning the Queensland coast.	This activity is supporting projects that engage communities in a range of practical local solutions to Reef threats. Insights from two project funding rounds highlighted an interest in a shared theme of collective climate action and remaining investment. Key learnings are embedded in the design for the Community Climate Action program to strengthen impact.	\$1.57m
 Integrated decision-making: Community Action Plans	Boosting collective impact requires greater knowledge exchange, more cohesive approaches, enhanced communication of community actions and seeking new ways to resource this community-led work at the scale required to support broader efforts to shape a better future for the Reef.	This activity is supporting Community Action Plans along the length of the Great Barrier Reef to enhance local Reef protection and community outcomes through collaborative planning and delivery of on-ground action.	\$1.55m
 Community Climate Action	Climate change is the greatest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. We must both urgently reduce emissions and build climate resilience. Yet many Australians do not connect personal action on climate change with protecting the Reef.	This activity is enabling projects that accelerate community-led climate action for the Reef through wide-scale participation in simple, measurable and impactful climate actions.	\$2.48m

Reef Trust Partnership

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate case studies and stories of hope 		<p>There is recognition that greater efforts are needed to shine a light on the collective impact of community efforts to care for the Reef and the incredible people driving this work.</p>	<p>This activity will capture and share community-driven solutions from a range of people and projects to celebrate achievements, share learnings and inspire increased engagement.</p>	\$0.249m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support enduring investment and partnership models 		<p>Lack of a cohesive measurement tool for community Reef and catchment stewardship and limitations in stable and significant funding for community Reef protection activities have been identified as key barriers to achieving more efficient and enduring outcomes.</p>	<p>This activity is strengthening tools for measuring and sharing Reef stewardship, and for enabling funding for community-led Reef protection activities in order to facilitate more efficient and enduring outcomes.</p>	\$0.2m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empowering community heroes 		<p>Capacity building initiatives can strengthen individual, organisational, and sector-wide capacity to support place-based, sector-based and youth leadership activities and ultimately, community stewardship outcomes.</p>	<p>This activity is identifying and delivering key capacity building needs for individuals and organisations to accelerate community leadership now and in the future.</p>	\$0.2m
TOTAL COMMUNITY REEF PROTECTION COMPONENT BUDGET:				\$10.349m

Community Reef Protection Annual Work Plan: 2024-2025

Major categories of activity, deliverables, and budget for the 2024-25 FY are shown in Table 9.

Table 9: Community Reef Protection Component investment areas and budget for 2024-2025

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
Citizen science projects	<p>A cohort of citizen science for change projects engaging the community in monitoring impacts from climate change and local threats and applying information to enable community-led solutions to build Reef and community resilience will be delivered.</p> <p>Deliverables: <i>The portfolio of grants strengthening and demonstrating pathways to impact for community information will be finalised, including progressing opportunities to enable legacy.</i></p>	\$0.135m
Local coral recovery and stewardship program	<p>The Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub will continue to be collaboratively designed and implemented with Traditional Owners, local community, tourism, science and Reef management partners. The Hub Coordinator will support Hub implementation with advice from the Hub Steering Group and input from the broader network.</p> <p>On-ground coral recovery and stewardship projects will explore and strengthen models to deliver Reef resilience outcomes for the Reef and communities.</p> <p>Deliverables: <i>Continuation of the collaborative design and implementation of the Hub with support from a Coordinator. Focus will be on strengthening deeper engagement with Traditional Owners, collaborative pilot projects, knowledge sharing and transition plans for the program.</i></p>	\$0.042m
Local action projects	<p>Delivery of projects focused on enabling local community climate action. To leverage input and learnings from two phases of local action projects to date, funding has been consolidated into the Community Climate Action program.</p> <p>Deliverables: <i>See Community climate action section.</i></p>	\$0.5m
Community Action Plans and data integration	<p>In regions with ongoing implementation, community and Traditional Owner-led projects will continue delivering actions aligned with the CAP.</p> <p>Deliverables: <i>Implementation of the CAP projects to deliver on-ground actions. Ongoing discussions with CAP Leaders around opportunities to support enduring outcomes.</i></p>	\$0.11m
Community climate action	<p>This activity will enable projects that accelerate community climate action for the Reef through a range of locally-relevant approaches including social innovation and behaviour change solutions for emissions reduction, and on-ground actions that protect, enhance and restore critical coastal habitats for climate resilience. The program will encourage collaboration and strengthen collective capacity for technical design, behaviour change, measurement and collaborative storytelling.</p> <p>Deliverables: <i>Work with project partners to enable projects that accelerate community climate action for the Reef, led by Traditional Owners, community organisations, local councils, local businesses, and youth. Support a coordinated initiative that grows collective capacity and tells an overarching story of impact.</i></p>	\$1.37m

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
Communicating case studies and stories of hope	<p>Outcomes and impacts from community projects will be shared and celebrated to demonstrate progress, acknowledge the work of individuals and community organisations, share learnings, and motivate others to get involved.</p> <p><i>Deliverables: Working with project partners, high-impact case studies and stories from projects will be developed and shared. Efforts to recognise, value and celebrate community Reef protection work will continue to be designed and implemented with partners.</i></p>	\$0.038m
Enduring investment and partnership models for Reef protection	<p>A partnership with the IMR PROTECT project will continue piloting a toolkit and collective measurement framework for measuring and monitoring community Reef stewardship.</p> <p>Collaborative work to explore and enhance community Reef protection program and funding models will continue for community program design and tools to enable enduring change.</p> <p><i>Deliverables: Learnings from a collective stewardship measurement framework will be shared. Tailored social science support to boost capability and measurement of outcomes with project partners will continue. A dynamic toolkit for exploring alternative funding and partnership models for community Reef protection will be refined and shared for wider use.</i></p>	\$0.042m
Community sector and youth leadership development support	<p>Community leadership to support Reef protection outcomes will be designed with community partners to enable acceleration and legacy.</p> <p><i>Deliverables: Activities will enable community sector and youth leadership to support Reef protection outcomes.</i></p>	\$0.101m
TOTAL INVESTMENT		\$2.338m

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting (IMR) Component

Partnership Budget: \$34.8m (formerly \$40m²)

2024-2025 budget: \$4.126m



Purpose: To support the implementation of the Reef 2050 Plan Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMREP), including eReefs and the Paddock to Reef monitoring and reporting programs, to improve health monitoring and reporting of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to ensure that monitoring and reporting to UNESCO is scientifically robust and investment outcomes are measurable.

Priorities under the Partnership Investment Strategy:

- Supporting critical monitoring activities identified via RIMREP
- Catalysing innovation in technology to increase coverage, impact and resource efficiency
- Driving unity of purpose and adaptive management through the development and implementation of a Reef-wide decision-making and forecasting platform
- Understanding the value of community stewardship and disclosure of high-value information
- Supporting partnerships and building a community of practice

End of Partnership Outcomes

The Reef Trust Partnership's Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component will result in:

 <p>Critical RIMREP data needs/gaps have been prioritised and are met</p>	 <p>Decision Support platform integrating Data Management and Decision Support Systems is operational</p>
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2024/25 IMR focus

The final 12 months of IMR's work is focussed on closing out the six projects which have been extended into the 24/25 FY (the Fish, Dugong, Dolphin, Stewardship and Seabird monitoring projects, as well as the Data Management System). In 2024-2025, GBRF will continue legacy conversations and support the transition of this workstream into the Reef 2050 Plan Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMREP) via synthesis reporting and continued representation at RIMReP governance meetings. Another key task will be sharing the outcomes from the IMR component and individual projects with Reef stakeholders and broader audiences. This process will involve a formal evaluation of the IMR component to capture key learnings, wrap-up and reflection touchpoints with project leads and communicating project activities and outcomes, such as project briefs, factsheets, stories of impact and project scientific publications, via GBRF communication channels.

² In the 2022/23 Financial Year, \$5.2m was handed back to the Australian Government due to election commitments made by the incoming Government during the May 2022 election. The majority of this allocation made up the Technical Transformation Fund (\$5m) referenced in previous RTP Annual Work Plans. None of the allocation being utilised for Traditional Owner-led Monitoring (\$4m) was impacted by this process.

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Six-Year Plan

Our six-year plan for the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component includes the following five Partnership Activities outlined in Table 10.

Table 10: Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Partnership Activities and Budgets

Partnership Activity		Rationale	Outcome	Budget
●	Early investment	To provide an updated 'baseline' assessment of reef condition and recovery in the northern Reef, ahead of what was perceived as a significant risk of a potential bleaching event in early 2019.	In-water surveys of coral and fish communities on up to 23reefs in the northern sector of the Reef.	\$0.57m
● ● ●	Critical Reef monitoring	Transformational investments need sound foundations with adequate baseline monitoring in place. The first phase of the RIMREP has systematically identified critical monitoring activities needed to support an integrated program.	This funding is making a significant contribution to addressing monitoring priority gaps.	\$27.4m (previously \$27.2m)
● ● ●	Reef-wide Decision Support System	The Reef needs a consistent and transparent approach to decision-making based on data that is current and accurate and on models that enable forecasting and scenario planning.	This funding is enabling the scoping, development and prototyping of an operational Reef decision-support platform that is integrated, tactical and strategic.	\$2.9m
● ● ● ●	Traditional Owner-led integrated monitoring and reporting initiatives (to be defined with Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component)	There is a need to promote positive engagement to protect and maintain culture and heritage values, improve the cycle of research information to management, build or maintain capacity of Traditional Owners and support transition into sunrise industries for increased business enterprise opportunities. This budget figure is also accounted for in the Traditional Owner Reef Protection Component.	Traditional Owner innovations from Indigenous Knowledge systems inform Strong Peoples-Strong Country framework and data-sharing agreements. Scoping of readiness and upskilling opportunities for Traditional Owner groups to transition to monitoring activities.	\$4m
TOTAL IMR COMPONENT BUDGET:				\$34.87m

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Annual Work Plan: 2024-2025

Major deliverables and budgets for IMR Partnership Activities in 2024-2025 are shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Component Partnership Activities and Budget 2024-2025

Partnership Activity	Description	Budget
Critical Monitoring	<p>Close out of existing Critical Monitoring program including extension of five Critical Monitoring projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dugong monitoring project (ending 30 June 2025) • Dolphin monitoring project (ending 31 December 2024) • Seabird monitoring project (ending 31 December 2024) • Fish monitoring project (ending 31 December 2024) • Stewardship monitoring project (ending 31 December 2024) <p><i>Deliverables:</i> IMR synthesis reporting to capture learnings and facilitate the transition of this workstream into RIMREP. Monitoring data and frameworks to fill the Reef's most critical monitoring gaps.</p>	\$3.826m
Decision Support	<p>Close out of the DMS build including a no cost extension to this project to finalise transition details for the System.</p> <p><i>Deliverables:</i> An operational DMS</p>	\$300k
TOTAL INVESTMENT		\$4.126m