

Queensland REEF WATER QUALITY Program



What's new



Reef Assist program extended

The Queensland Government has announced a further \$10 million towards the [Reef Assist program](#) (the program) to ensure benefits to Great Barrier Reef water quality outcomes created by the program are maximised. The government has also provided additional funding to extend seven current projects through 2022.

The now \$20+ million program will continue to deliver priority environmental projects and create regional jobs for unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders in the Great Barrier Reef catchment areas. It is being extended into all six regions.

The initial stage of the program, Reef Assist 1.0, saw \$10 million invested in 11 on-ground projects in three regions. These projects were delivered in partnership with local governments, natural resource management organisations and private organisations with a proven track record in environmental restoration. More than 230 full-time, part-time and casual positions were generated, with more than half identifying as First Nations and over a third being young people.

The additional \$10 million is estimated to generate around 225 more regional jobs. A tender call will be announced soon inviting eligible organisations to apply for funding under the Reef Assist 2.0 program.



Reef Champion Award nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Reef Champion Awards, celebrating the outstanding individuals and organisations working to improve the quality of water entering the iconic Great Barrier Reef. The Awards are run by the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) with support from the Australian and Queensland governments and the Prince's Trust Australia.

The event celebrates the growing culture of best practice and innovation in how the community, business and industry help protect the Reef. There are categories for land managers, extension officers, young people and community groups. For the first time, there are categories for Traditional Owners.

Nominations close at 12pm on Tuesday 12 July 2022. For more information and to prepare your nominations, visit the [QFF website](#).



Koinmerburra Ridge to Reef Restoration Project

The first phase of a Traditional Owner-led project protecting and improving ecosystems on the Central Queensland coast, will be rolled out over six months by the Koinjmal People.

The Koinmerburra Ridge to Reef Restoration Project is a new collaboration involving the Queensland Government and the Koinjmal People. It is focused on improving ecosystems around Clairview and Wild Duck Island, following the government's acquisition of Wild Duck Island last year to protect turtle populations.

The project will support important ecosystems vital to the health of the Great Barrier Reef. This includes protecting seagrass meadows located within the Central Queensland coast and its off-shore waters that are critical for the well-being of marine mammals, including dugongs and turtles

Traditional Owners involved in the project will initially assess their Country for restoring cultural heritage sites, assess the health of seagrasses, mangroves and coral reefs, and implement actions to improve water quality.

Visit the [Ecosure website](#) (environment consultants working closely on the project) to learn more.

Project updates



New funding for Traditional Owner-led water quality monitoring project

A Traditional Owner-led coral and marine water quality monitoring project that helps to assess the health of the Great Barrier Reef in the Gladstone and Burnett Mary areas has received renewed funding.

A further \$102,000 from the Queensland Government has been allocated to help Gidarjil and Butchulla sea rangers continue inshore coral and water quality monitoring in the southern Great Barrier Reef for another six months.

This \$460,000 project is being delivered by the Gidarjil Development Corporation in partnership with the Department of Environment and Science (DES), with support from the University of the Sunshine Coast and the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS). It involves Traditional Owners caring for sea country and playing a crucial role in identifying threats to the Reef.

The extended program will build on the sea rangers' previous work monitoring 15 inshore coral and water quality sites, combining their knowledge and connection to sea country, with scientific techniques to monitor inshore coral and local marine water quality.



Agricultural extension officers graduate

Eleven new extension officers, who recently completed the [Agriculture Extension Work Placement Program](#), are now working in the agricultural advisory and natural resource management sectors.

The Rural Jobs Skills Alliance through the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) partnered with the Queensland Government and industry host organisations to deliver the latest round of this innovative program.

Graduates have worked with cane and banana growers and graziers throughout the Great Barrier Reef catchments, helping them enhance their land management practices.

They were mentored by experienced extension practitioners to gain industry relevant skills and build their professional capacity. This has given them a deeper understanding of how sustainable farming can deliver good environmental outcomes and drive progress towards the Reef water quality targets.



CHRRUP delivers successful forage budgeting services

Forage budgeting is a valuable land management tool that helps determine stocking rates to achieve better outcomes for pasture and soil condition and water quality for the Great Barrier Reef.

Delivered by Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative (CHRRUP), graziers provide a forage budgeting and land condition assessment service to their fellow grazing land managers: a program which has seen successful recent results. The project has expanded into the Belyando catchment of the Burdekin region and is continuing in the Fitzroy region.

Between 2018 and 2021, the project achieved significant outcomes, including training opportunities. Four local 'champion' graziers were trained to deliver forage budget services, successfully delivering one-on-one forage budgeting services to 30 graziers in the Fitzroy and Belyando on around 125,000 hectares. Photo-monitoring sites were established across the 30 properties involved.

This project was funded through the Queensland Government's [Queensland Reef Water Quality Program](#). More information can be found by visiting [CHRRUP's website](#).

Participating land manager Alana Carter (left) with Forage budget mentor Amy Holcombe at Cheyene in Banana.



Learn more about human dimensions research findings

Five human dimensions research projects, funded through the Queensland Government's [Queensland Reef Water Quality Program](#), have now finished. The findings have helped identify some of the social, cultural and economic factors that underpin water quality improvements in the Reef catchments and are guiding the development of new programs.

The researchers will present their findings through a series of webinars in July and August. Please email officeofthegbr@des.qld.gov.au if you would like to be invited to these.

You can also access more information, the project reports and result summaries on the Collection of Reef and Land (CORAL) database:

- [Building a policy instrument for the Reef \(RP225\)](#): evaluated the effectiveness of a mix of policies, programs and instruments and developed a POLICY INSTRUMENT (POINT) model to estimate the likelihood of a practice being adopted.
- [Reef partnerships review and synthesis \(RP226\)](#): reviewed existing Reef partnerships and identified how they could be improved.
- [Understanding the influence of media and community narratives on Great Barrier Reef water quality management \(RP227\)](#): established a baseline of how and why media narratives influence our understanding of Reef water quality issues.
- [Understanding the human dimensions to land management practice change to aid in improved future adoption \(RP228\)](#): analysed ways to overcome transaction costs incurred by graziers when adopting improved practices and considered the influence of social capital and power when engaging sugarcane growers in water quality monitoring.
- [Supply chain and market incentives for water quality \(RP229\)](#): considered how existing supply chains and markets can encourage behaviours that improve water quality outcomes.

Other news



CQUniversity new host for Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

The [Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership](#) (GHHP) will begin a new era after signing a Memorandum of Understanding with [CQUniversity](#) (CQU) to become the new Host Organisation. The Queensland Government is a key partner.

GHHP is a stakeholder-driven monitoring and advisory body, that aims to improve the health of the Gladstone Harbour. The cornerstone project for GHHP is the Gladstone Harbour Report Card, released annually.

GHHP Chair, Professor Iain Gordon, says the new arrangement assists GHHP to support the Gladstone community in understanding the health of the harbour.

"CQU already has a strong relationship with the community of Gladstone, so being within an

organisation that is based in the community – on the doorstep to the harbour – strengthens the opportunity to help guide future management of Queensland’s largest multi-commodity port.”

Find out more [here](#).

Contact us

For more information about any of these projects, email officeoftheGBR@des.qld.gov.au

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