Burdekin Paddock to Reef integrated modelling, monitoring, and reporting program

Project summary

Proponent: North Queensland Dry Tropics Ltd

Value: $687,454

Project duration: 1 October 2013 – 30 June 2016

Project description

The three broad goals of this project are:

1. to provide practice change information across relevant commodity areas/industries to support the reporting of progress towards Reef Plan goals and targets
2. to complete a water quality risk assessment and investment prioritisation process to aid the selection of on-ground projects based on least cost pollution abatement
3. to complete on-ground wetland prioritisation and assessment to establish a Great Barrier Reef-wide baseline for monitoring wetland condition and function at several priority sites within the North Queensland Dry Tropics Natural Resource Management region.

This project will implement the updated Paddock to Reef Integrated Modelling Monitoring and Reporting Program in the North Queensland Dry Tropics region. Specifically this project will ensure that data provision, risk assessments, prioritisation and other Reef Plan 2013 activities are delivered on time and to a high standard.

Key stakeholders for the delivery of this project include graziers and farmers, multiple agencies of the State Government, the Australian Government (through the Reef Rescue Program), a range of institutions (i.e. CSIRO, TropWater, etc.) and the other regional Natural Resource Management bodies in reef regions.

Key outputs from this project will include:

- the annual provision of management practice adoption data
- the provision of fertiliser and pesticide use data
- the completion of on-ground wetland assessments and prioritisation
- the development and adoption of water quality risk assessment method for prioritisation of on-ground projects.
Project outcomes

Long-term outcomes (5-10 years)

- By 2018, across the Great Barrier Reef, there will be at least:
  - 50% reduction in dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads
  - 20% reduction of sediment and particulate nutrients
  - 60% reduction in pesticide loads
  - 90% of agricultural lands adopting best practice farming practices
  - 70% late dry season groundcover in grazing lands
  - An increase in the extent of riparian vegetation
  - No net loss of natural wetlands.

Intermediate outcomes (3-5 years)

- Great Barrier Reef report cards produced annually.
- Model results demonstrate water quality changes in Great Barrier Reef regions.
- Technical reports developed to synthesize paddock scale water quality knowledge generated over the project duration.

Further information

For further information on the ‘Burdekin Paddock to Reef integrated modelling, monitoring, and reporting program’ project, please contact NQ Dry Tropics Ltd.
Burdekin Paddock to Reef integrated modelling, monitoring and reporting program
© State of Queensland, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, 2014.