

MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS

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Local engagement a key factor in educating the wider community about the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program (LHWQP) aims to prevent 140 tonnes of dissolved inorganic nitrogen from entering the Great Barrier Reef lagoon from the Herbert River catchment each year.

The program draws on established and trusted delivery providers in the Herbert district to support sugarcane farmers to better manage their farm nutrient inputs to best suit their crop needs and reduce nitrogen losses as runoff.

Program Coordinator for the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Carola Bradshaw said that although she has only been in the role for a few months it has been great to get involved in the community with the local growers and the delivery providers of the program.

"My personal goal is to spread the word about the LHWQP and promote the hard work our local growers and the delivery providers have done, it is an achievement which needs to be showcased," said Mrs Bradshaw.

A six-month television campaign to increase the understanding of farm management practices and reduce runoff of dissolved inorganic nitrogen was designed to share stories and experiences of delivery providers and growers involved in the program.

"We continually strive for the sugar industry to be more environmentally and financially sustainable and programs like the LHWQP are assisting to give growers the tools, knowledge, and innovation to make changes quicker than they would without the support."

"The changes we have seen over the last decade with other programs previously integrated in the Lower Herbert to now is incredible and are proving that programs are important to reach our goals," continued Mrs Bradshaw.

A free community information session was held in Ingham on Monday for those interested in learning more about the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program. Another opportunity to meet and discuss the program with Mrs Bradshaw and the delivery providers involved will be at Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism's Coffee Connect, Wednesday 24 May from 7:30am at the TYTO Conference Area in Tully Street.

The \$16.2 million program is funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation with coordination support provided by CANEGROWERS Herbert River.

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Great Barrier
Reef Foundation