

MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS
HERBERT RIVER

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Herbert River sugarcane growers adopt new practices and reduce dissolved inorganic nitrogen for healthier waterways

Under the Reef 2050 plan to reduce runoff of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) the Herbert River is one of the highest priority river catchments in Queensland.

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 and is well on track to meet the expected target by June 2024.

Since the program commenced in 2020 over three hundred growers in the Lower Herbert district have adjusted their farming practices, increased their knowledge of modern technologies and equipment, and gained assistance from industry experts and leaders to improve their nutrient management plans and budgets through greater innovation, integration, and collaboration across the range of Herbert projects.

“Fourth generation Herbert grower Robert Lyon said by industry working together to identify what’s coming off-farm and potentiality going to the reef shows that they are concerned and proactive in managing change.”

“We have to prevent chemicals moving into waterways so we as an industry can show the rest of the world that we are not destroying everything,” said Mr Lyon.

LHWQP growers were able to review and reduce rates by working together with projects agronomists and delivery providers and have seen significant savings on fertiliser cost and this collective impact ensures the Herbert sugar industry is productive, profitable, and sustainable, now and into the future.

“I want to be part of an environmentally sustainable and profitable sugar industry for the next generation, with today’s costs and application rates we can’t afford to have any chemical or nutrient run-off going anywhere else other than where it needs to be,” continued Mr Lyon.

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.

[More information and interviews:](#) Jason Wolfram | Communications Manager | 0436 469 018



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation