

MEDIA RELEASE



CANEGROWERS

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Positive Relationships through local on-ground support are the key to adopting new practice changes in the Lower Herbert.

The Lower Herbert Water Quality Program (LHWQP) 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.

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.

Program Coordinator for the Lower Herbert Water Quality Program Carola Bradshaw said having a regional coordinator working on-ground also helps to deliver community engagement and stakeholder engagement on a program level.

“Programs like the LHWQP can only succeed through local on-ground support from experienced and knowledgeable extension officers collaborating with growers they trust and want to collaborate with to adopt new practice changes,” said Mrs Bradshaw.

Extension agronomist from Herbert AgriServices and LANDHub Leanne Carr said that growers go the extra mile to make a difference and having an extension officer helping them every step of the way ensures they are meeting and exceeding program targets.

“The role of an extension officer is to build relationships with farmers, to share science, knowledge and ideas and work through the challenges, aiming to drive on-farm profitability and sustainability through enhanced understanding and improved decision-making,” said Ms Carr.

(HCPSL) extension agronomist and project coordinator for Project CaNE Adam Royle said that trust is key to working with growers and it takes time to build relationships.

“We work closely with several partners associated with Project CaNE including the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries and TropWater to convey their messages to growers. Building those relationships and trust is the only way you can get that information to flow both ways, so it is critical,” said Mr Royle.

Funded through the partnership between the Australian Government’s Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation the program prioritises bringing all local organisations and delivery providers together to work on a common goal to improve the profitability, productivity, and sustainability of the sugar industry. Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/3FJiNtV>

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Great Barrier
Reef Foundation