

Expression of Interest Form – Reef Trust Program (2016 – 2018)

The Australian Government’s Reef Trust Program (phase 3) in the Mary Catchment will work with grazing landholders to adopt grazing land management practices that achieve Reef Trust outcomes in terms of nutrient and sediment losses to the reef. The project team will provide graziers with extension support, technical advice, training and financial incentives to implement eligible on-ground projects using best land management practices. The MRCCC is now calling for expressions of interest from interested grazing landholders to participate in this program (see over page).

Participating graziers will implement improved land management practices that will reduce the amount of nutrients and sediments leaving their farms and impacting on the Reef water quality.

For every dollar invested in the two previous Reef Programs (2010 to 2016), land managers contributed on average an additional \$1.50 in-kind i.e. cash, labour, materials etc to their projects.

A key component of the new Reef Trust #3 Program is the use of the Grazing BMP self-assessment tool to allow graziers to benchmark their own grazing practices against Beef Industry standards. Interested graziers will first need to register for the Grazing BMP component. This can be completed on-line or at a local workshop.

Once registered for Grazing BMP, the MRCCC project team will engage with participating graziers to jointly undertake detailed assessments of current grazing land practices using an A, B, C, D rating system. An additional assessment of the property’s grazing land condition, including pasture condition and riparian zone condition, will also be completed. These assessments will help identify training needs, areas for further extension and technical support and the potential for on-ground projects to meet Reef Trust outcomes.

The Reef Trust #3 Program will focus on the Mary Valley sub-catchments, the Widgee, Glastonbury and Wide Bay Creek sub-catchments, and southwards including the Upper Mary sub-catchment of the Kenilworth and Conondale districts. The Mary River is the southern-most of these reef catchments, with the grazing sector being the largest single land manager ie about 70% of the catchment area.

Improved grazing land condition leads to greater pasture productivity, improved resilience to climate extremes and enterprise profitability, by reducing the loss of valuable sediments and nutrients from our grazing lands. Wetland systems such as riparian zones, billabongs, marshes etc will be a particular focus due to their key function of filtering out nutrients and sediments from the grazing landscape, before they reach the river systems.

Examples of eligible on-ground projects could include:

Creeks, Riparian Zones & Wetlands

- fencing to reduce bank erosion and manage cattle access to the river, creeks and wetlands to improve water quality
- fencing of wetlands to encourage natural regeneration of aquatic vegetation to filter sediments and nutrients

Stock Watering Points

- provision of off-stream watering points eg tanks, troughs, as an alternate water supply to creek water;
- the positioning of tanks on ridgelines and troughs on hillslopes to form new cattle camps high in the landscape. This will reduce nutrient run-off from cattle camps into drainage lines and creeks, and retain these valuable nutrients for pasture production
- provision of additional troughs in large paddocks to facilitate evenness of grazing & improved grazing land condition

Sub-division Fencing

- sub-division fencing to separately manage different grazing land types and improve grazing land condition
- fencing of remnant vegetation eg clumps of rainforest, pine scrub etc, or sensitive areas to manage grazing access

Stabilization of Erosion Gullies, Salt Scalds etc

- fencing to restore groundcover and encourage the natural stabilisation of gullies and scalds
- planting clumps of salinity-tolerant tree species adjacent to and above scalds to lower the salty watertable
- fencing ridge lines above salinity outbreaks to facilitate the natural regeneration of trees eg Spotted gum, to reduce the amount of surface water recharge of the groundwater

Expression of Interest for Reef Trust extension and on-ground project support

Q1. Have you already completed the Grazing BMP self-assessment? **Yes** or **No**? (please circle). If no, go to Q2.

Q2. Which is your preference to complete the Grazing BMP self-assessment (please tick):

- Visit the Grazing BMP website (www.bmpgrazing.com.au) to register on-line
- Via a workshop to be held locally e.g. Gympie, the Mary Valley or another location

Please indicate your interest in one or more examples of Reef Trust on-ground projects:

1. River, creek, riparian zone &/or wetland fencing / management projects (please provide details eg. length of fencing)

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2. Stock watering points away from drainage lines (please provide details eg. number of troughs, distance from drainage lines etc)

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3. Sub-division fencing to improve evenness of grazing (please provide details eg. length of fencing and location on property etc)

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4. Stabilization of erosion gullies, salt scalds etc (please provide details e.g. fencing required)

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5. Other proposed works (please provide details)

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Each dollar of Reef Trust incentive funding must be matched \$ for \$ in-kind by the property owner.

Name:.....	Phone Number:.....
Postal Address:.....	
Fax Number:.....	Email:.....

Please return to:
MRCCC, PO Box 1027
Gympie, QLD 4570

25 Stewart Terrace, Gympie

Phone: 07 5482 4766

Fax: 07 5482 5642

Email: admin@mrccc.org.au

