

REEF TRUST PARTNERSHIP 2018-19

The principal objective of the Reef Trust Partnership is to achieve significant improvement in the health of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area.



Australian Government

REEF TRUST



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation

The *Great Barrier Reef Foundation* extends its deepest respect and recognition to all Traditional Owners of the Great Barrier Reef as First Nations Peoples holding the hopes, dreams, traditions and cultures of the Reef.

REEF TRUST PARTNERSHIP

Through a landmark Commonwealth grant of \$443.3 million – the largest single grant to the Reef in Australia’s history – the Great Barrier Reef Foundation formed a six-year partnership with the Australian Government’s Reef Trust to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef and deliver on the goals of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050 Plan).

This is a funding step change for Reef health. The Reef Trust Partnership delivers sustained and strategic funding for longer term Reef protection efforts across the critical issues of improving water quality and crown-of-thorns starfish control, harnessing the best science to restore reefs and support reef resilience and adaptation, enhancing Reef health monitoring and reporting, and increasing community and Traditional Owner engagement in Reef protection.

It creates a new era of collaboration and partnerships – empowering

us all to work together to boost the resilience and health of the Great Barrier Reef.

The goals and objectives of the Partnership are anchored within the Reef 2050 Plan. Each of the Partnership components is designed to deliver measurable improvements in the health of the Reef consistent with Reef 2050 Plan outcomes, targets and actions, including initiatives in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s Blueprint and actions under the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan.

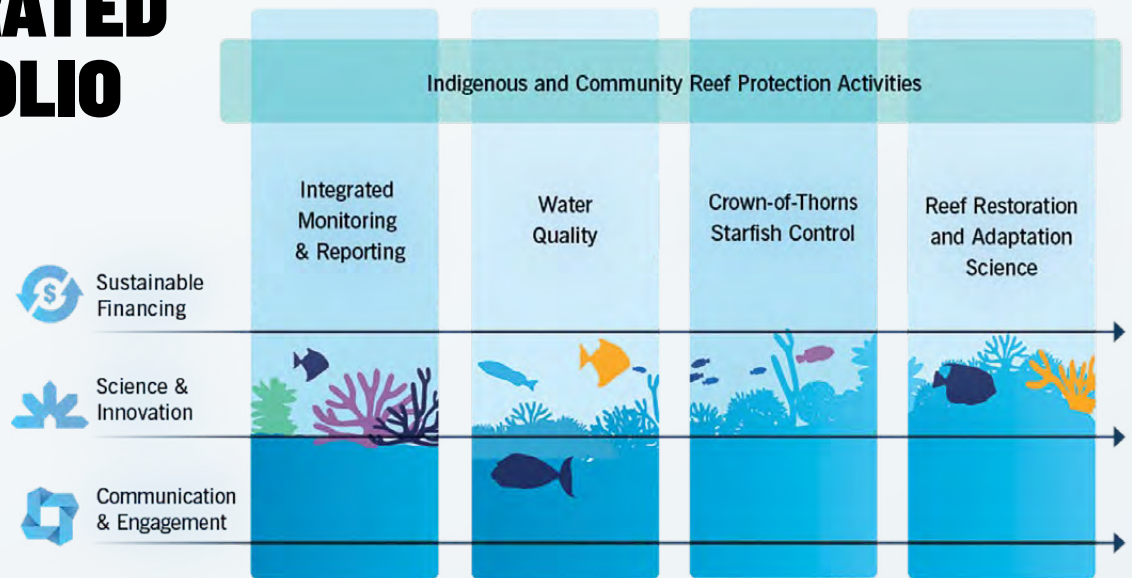
THE CHALLENGE

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report highlighted the fact that we are rapidly running out of time to save Australia’s great natural wonder, and indeed the world’s coral reefs, declaring the loss of the world’s coral reefs by 2050 if we do not meet the Paris Agreement targets.

There is no doubt that the Reef needs a global solution to climate change – the biggest threat it faces. Curbing temperature rises to the lowest thresholds in the Paris Agreement is essential. The best available science also tells us that, in addition to global action, we must take local action to build the resilience of the Reef. This is where the Reef Trust Partnership (the Partnership) is focused, delivering outcomes for the Reef across five key components: Water Quality; Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) Control; Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science; Community Reef Protection and Traditional Owner Reef Protection; and Integrated Monitoring and Reporting. Cutting across all five areas are science and innovation, sustainable financing, and communication and engagement – integral elements for the effective design, delivery and sustainability of the Partnership.



INTEGRATED PORTFOLIO



The Reef Trust Partnership portfolio has cross-cutting themes

Investment Strategy

The Investment Strategy provides a road map for investing in five areas to improve Reef health:

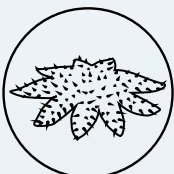
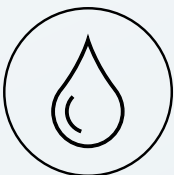
1. **Water Quality**
Improve water quality through changed farming practices such as reduced fertiliser use and adopting new technologies and land management practices.
2. **Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science**
Harnessing the best science to implement reef restoration and support Reef resilience and adaptation.
3. **Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control**
Expand the fight against the coral-eating crown-of-thorns starfish.
4. **Integrated Monitoring and Reporting**
Enhance Reef health monitoring and reporting to track progress and inform better management.
5. **Traditional Owner and Community Reef Protection**
Support Indigenous and community Reef protection activities to increase Traditional Owner and broader community engagement on the Reef, including Indigenous sea country management, coastal clean-up days and awareness raising activities.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts

Bringing five important components together into one portfolio means the portfolio is being designed and delivered in an integrated way, maximising the co-benefits and providing efficiency dividends as outcomes from one component can inform and strengthen the outcomes of others.

Traditional Owner investment

Through the Investment Strategy, the Foundation is delivering the largest single investment for Traditional Owner Reef protection with \$42 million, or 10% of the total Partnership funding, allocated to Reef activities with Traditional Owners to build on and scale up the work already being done by more than 200 Indigenous Rangers and 70 Sea Country groups within the Reef catchment.



PROGRESS IN THE FIRST YEAR

58
projects committed



\$25m project investments committed



\$21.5m in-kind partner contributions



\$42m of funding committed to Traditional Owner Reef protection activities



> 130 project delivery partners



3 open funding grant rounds



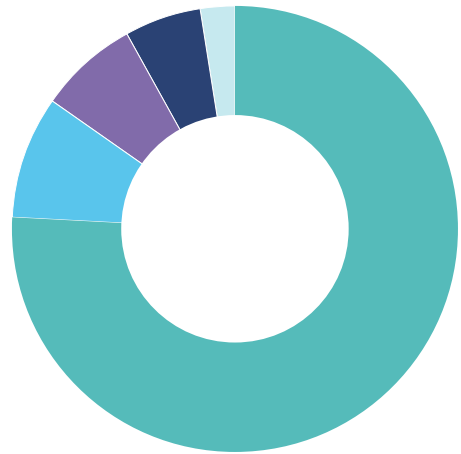
> 100 organisations
> 300 individuals collaborated on Annual Work Plan 2019-2020



11 foundational plans and strategies



PROJECT INVESTMENTS IN THE FIRST YEAR



\$19m

Water Quality Improvement
11 projects

\$2.2m

Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science
3 projects

\$1.8m

Traditional Owner Reef Protection
18 projects

\$1.4m

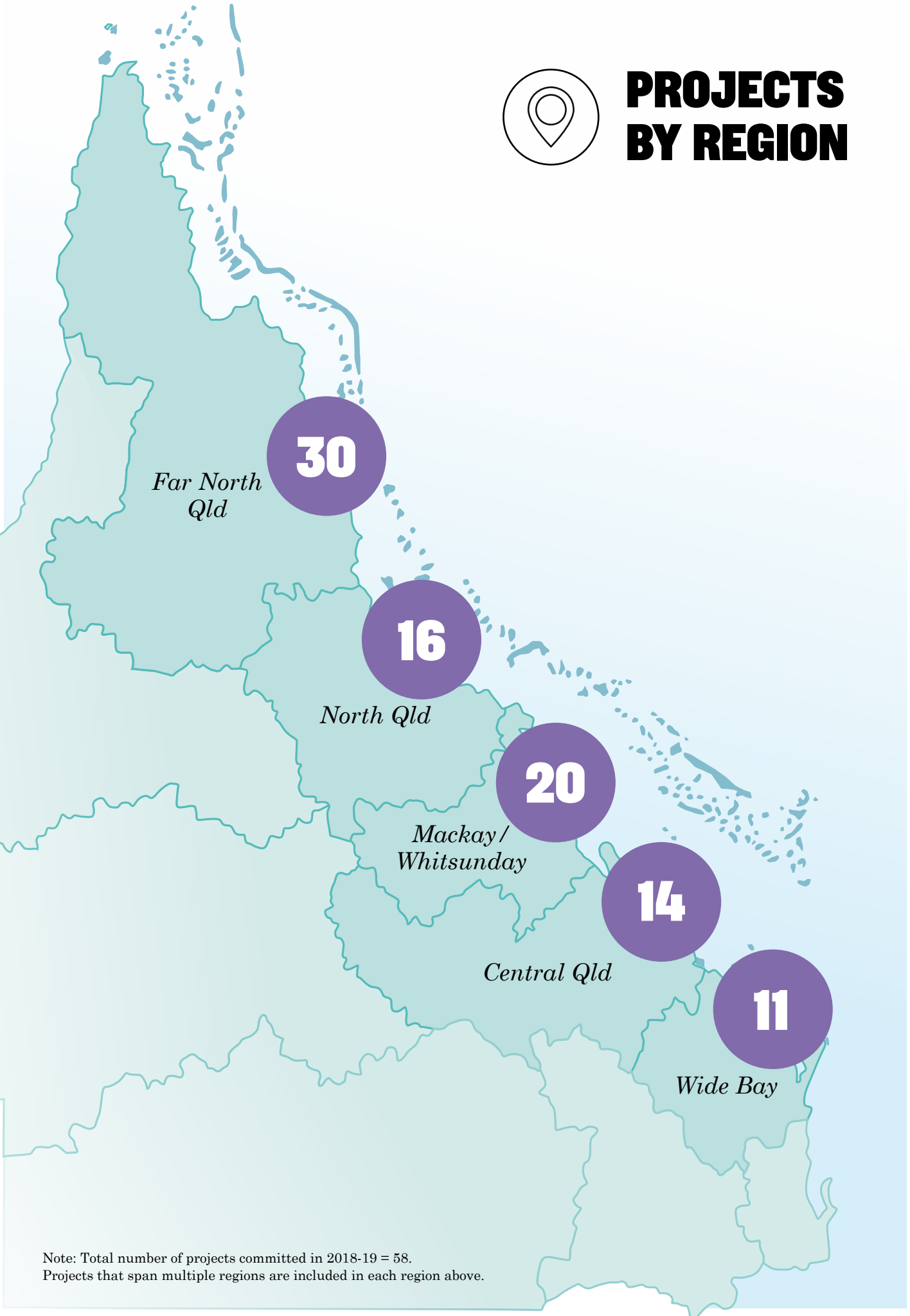
Community Reef Protection
25 projects

\$0.6m

Integrated Monitoring and Reporting
1 project



PROJECTS BY REGION



Note: Total number of projects committed in 2018-19 = 58.
Projects that span multiple regions are included in each region above.

2018-19 ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Planning and action

The first 12 months of the Partnership centred on building the foundations, governance, engagement and plans required for an investment of this scale.

Through the Partnership, the a Foundation is leading the collaboration of science, business, government, industry, philanthropy and community to deliver on and amplify the impact of this investment.

In 2018-19 the Foundation scaled up its operations, putting business strategies and systems in place commensurate with the magnitude of the investment and in keeping with our ethos of quality, integrity and innovation.

Eleven strategic plans were delivered, meeting all objectives set in the Grant Agreement, including our Partnership Investment Strategy and 2019-2020 Annual Work Plan detailing our goals and focus areas for investment, and our strategy to leverage the government grant by raising a further \$300M–\$400M through Australia’s largest environmental fundraising campaign.

The Partnership is committed to best practice governance and transparent decision-making. The Partnership Management Committee established in July 2018 is comprised of science, research, marine, industry and project management experts, and is charged with overseeing the investment and tracking progress over the six-year program.

Recognising the need to build on the excellent work already underway in Reef protection, the first year also included action. The first funding programs under the Reef Trust Partnership were announced, and grants totalling \$25 million were awarded to qualified projects.



- **11 foundational plans** outlining the framework, governance and strategic focus of the six-year partnership.

<p>Annual Work Plan 2019–2020</p>	<p>Investment Strategy</p>	<p>Collaborative Investment Strategy</p>	<p>Communication and Engagement Plan</p>
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation Plan</p>	<p>Governance Arrangements</p>	<p>Investment Strategy and Annual Work Plan Consultation Plan</p>	<p>Activity Gantt Chart 2018–2019</p>
<p>Risk Management Plan</p>	<p>Fraud Prevention Plan</p>	<p>Resourcing Plan</p>	



Over 100 organisations and more than 300 individuals were consulted in the development of the 2019–2020 Annual Work Plan.

- **First Water Quality grants** awarded funding to 11 initiatives with a demonstrated track record in making significant contributions towards Reef 2050 targets. Projects are being delivered in partnership with landholders and industry who are providing an additional \$13m of in-kind co-contributions.

- **A prioritisation tool** was developed for Water Quality projects that can now be used by other key funders to direct investment where it will have the greatest benefit in achieving improved water quality outcomes.

- **First Community Citizen Science grant round represents the largest single investment in Reef citizen science** and produced new strategic alliances and collaborations. The 15 citizen science projects funded are bringing together 84 project partners working with grantees. Ten community local action projects are empowering locals to take direct action to reduce threats and generating grass roots changes to improve the outlook for the Reef.

- **Traditional Owner Reef protection grants** are working to improve Traditional Owner involvement in Reef management through 18 caring for country projects including the development and implementation of land and sea country planning projects, and junior ranger programs to keep people and country healthy and strong.

- **A critical knowledge gap was filled** through the Integrated Monitoring and Reporting investment in the **25-day reef health check** in the remote northern section of the Reef. This assessment delivered high value information on the condition and recovery of coral reefs and fish populations in the northern section of the Reef and will inform future monitoring and guide investments in other key areas including reef restoration and crown-of-thorns starfish control.


- **An extensive program of stakeholder and Traditional Owner engagement** across all Project Activity Components' planning and delivery activities was implemented. Over 100 organisations and more than 300 individuals were consulted in the development of the 2019–2020 Annual Work Plan.


- **The Traditional Owner co-design workshop** and engagement with international co-design experts set the framework for co-design and co-delivery activities across the Partnership's portfolio.

- **Working groups** established for each of components are playing an active role in co-designing and implementing Partnership plans and activities.

- **Australia's largest environmental fundraising campaign plan** establishes the platform to grow the record government investment in the Reef Trust Partnership by an additional \$300 million to \$400 million. The Collaborative Investment Strategy outlines the overarching fundraising plan across the six-year partnership encompassing:
 - Capital campaign target
\$100m 

 - Corporate giving target
\$50m 

 - Individual giving target
\$7m 

 - Research and delivery partners target
\$200m 

TRADITIONAL OWNER ENGAGEMENT



More than 70 Traditional Owner groups have rich, ongoing connections, rights, interests and aspirations in the land and sea country of the Great Barrier Reef.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples engaged in Partnership planning activities:

- Partnership Management Committee member
- Traditional Owner Working Group – 5 members
- GBRF Traditional Owner Partnership Program Director appointed
- Workshop participation supported – 6 attended the Monitoring & Evaluation workshop; 17 attended the co-design workshop
- Assessment Panel for Traditional Owner Reef Protection Grants – 2 panel members

\$42m is committed to Traditional Owner Reef protection activities in the Investment Strategy

An initial options paper has been developed for a Traditional Owner Futures Fund

18 Traditional Owner Reef Protection projects approved for funding:

- 6** land and sea country-based planning projects
- 5** projects to implement existing country-based plans
- 7** junior ranger projects



Traditional Owner Working Group appointed following an open invitation for expressions of interest:

- **Larissa Hale** (Chair), Yuku Baja Muliku Traditional Owner from Cape York
- **Traceylee Forester**, Lama Lama Traditional Owner from Cape York (Port Stewart/Princess Charlotte Bay) and Nywaigi Traditional Owner (Herbert River to Rolling Stone)
- **Stan Lui**, Torres Strait Islander from Erub (Darnley Island)
- **Malcolm Mann**, Darumbal Traditional Owner
- **Brian Singleton**, Yirraganydji Traditional Owner (until October 2019)
- **Gavin Singleton**, Yirraganydji Traditional Owner (from October 2019)



Photographs of the Raine Island Recovery Project by Gary Cranitch, Queensland Museum

PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

58 projects were approved to receive Reef Trust Partnership funding in 2018-19. These included:



Traditional Owners' vision for sea country plan

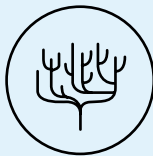
Jajikal Traditional Owners have taken an important step towards creating their mob's first-ever sea country plan that will take in key areas in the far north including Cape Tribulation, Weary Bay and Wujal Wujal (Bloomfield River).

Multiple generations came together for the first on-country sea planning workshop held over two days in 2019, with inspiring discussions fuelling the formation of the plan. A second planned get together will progress the initiative.

The group's vision for sharing their completed sea country plan includes producing a book, video and audio recordings as well as future hands-on workshops to ensure commitments are acted on throughout the community.

This is one of 18 Traditional Owner Reef protection projects currently underway through funding from the Partnership.

Traditional Owner Reef Protection



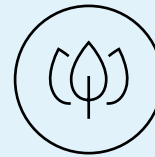
Next generation corals undergo first Reef field tests

Hundreds of juvenile corals bred at the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) have survived being transplanted on the Great Barrier Reef, in a promising early test to help corals increase their resilience to marine heatwaves.

This project, which is partly funded by the Partnership, is the first test to assess the feasibility of the Assisted Gene Flow technique at larger scale on the Great Barrier Reef.

The trial aims to show young coral offspring produced from mixing corals from warm northern reefs, with cooler water corals, can survive in cooler environments.

Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science



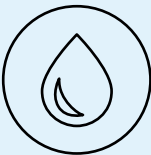
Agricultural Extension Officers boosting capacity

The Reef Trust Partnership is funding eight early career extension officers to be placed within agronomic extension organisations who work in key reef catchments. Adding these extra resources will increase capacity to support land management practice change with a view to decreasing sediment, nitrogen and pesticide runoff to the Reef.

Sunshine Coast local David Clancy has settled into his new role with agricultural science specialist Farmacist, working on Project Bluewater within the Sandy Creek, Pioneer River and Plane Creek catchments in the Mackay / Whitsunday region. David has been working with growers to assess and upgrade boom sprayers as well as developing pesticide management plans. He has also helped run several field demonstrations of an improved herbicide application method, in conjunction with monitoring runoff to demonstrate the gains from better herbicide management. David's deeper understanding of sugarcane farm management and pesticide use patterns will be shared throughout the project.

Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation

PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

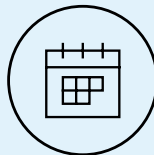


Project Bluewater on track to reduce pesticides

Farmacist's Project Bluewater was one of the 11 projects with a demonstrated track record of making significant contributions towards Reef 2050 Plan targets to receive a Water Quality Improvement grant through the open funding round in 2019.

With a focus on reducing the runoff of pesticides into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon through adopting improved sugar cane farming practices, this project is on track to reduce pesticides in the Plane Creek near Mackay and Lower Burdekin (south of Townsville) catchments by an inspiring 6,000kg next year.

Water Quality



Students schooled in reef science

High school students are setting sail on a mission to investigate the health of seagrass on the Great Barrier Reef.

Science Under Sail's first crew of students from Bundaberg Christian College journeyed out to the Capricorn Bunker Group reefs as well as estuarine coral reefs near Pancake Creek to learn how to survey sea floor habitats and species.

As well as fostering the next generation of Reef champions, the data captured by the project helps address a knowledge gap in the location and extent of seagrass on the Reef.

Community Reef Protection



Remote reef health check

A 25-day health check of remote far northern reefs was completed in January with funding from the Partnership.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) called in its fleet's largest research vessel, the RV Solander, for the long voyage from Cooktown north to the Torres Strait to survey the health of 15 remote reefs that had not been visited since the 2016 mass coral bleaching event.

Researchers from AIMS and James Cook University completed the assessment of reef conditions and recovery. This information will inform future monitoring and guide future Reef restoration and adaptation science and crown-of-thorns starfish control investments.

Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation



PROJECT SNAPSHOTS

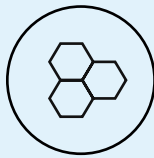


Training the next generation of Reef champions

A collaborative citizen science project will have experts from the Lady Musgrave Experience team up with the Gidarjil Development Corporation, Bundaberg Regional Council, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and CoralWatch to train the next generation of Reef champions for the Bundaberg region.

The Partnership-funded program is providing opportunities for children, teachers, tourism professionals, Traditional Owners and the wider community to become involved and share their experiences in monitoring and protecting the Reef through citizen science. The project is building on existing data, monitoring and events through programs such as CoralWatch and Eye on the Reef, while empowering people to be conservation leaders and ambassadors for the Reef in their community.

Community Reef Protection

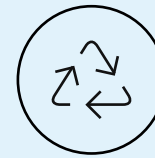


Project Pioneer ahead of schedule to reduce sediment flowing to the Reef

With funding secured from the Partnership, Project Pioneer is ahead of schedule to reach its goal of engaging 50 grazing businesses within the Great Barrier Reef priority catchments to increase ground cover on their land.

This important project works with graziers to adopt practices and improve farm management to stop erosion through gullies and streambanks which will reduce the amount of sediment running off their land.

Water Quality



Less is more seeds behaviour change

One of 10 funded local action community Reef protection activities, Bundaberg Local Marine Advisory Committee's 'Less is More' project is targeting three simple actions to initiate positive behaviour change for the Great Barrier Reef.

1. Reduce single use plastics in primary schools by teaching students how to make beeswax wraps
2. Encourage smokers to “vote for the Reef” by placing cigarette butts in a bin
3. Reduce plastic straws with a paper for plastic straw replacement program for local cafes and school tuckshops

The initiative has received positive media coverage in the community and is supported by Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers, Gidarjil Development Corporation, Kalkie State School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bundaberg Regional Council, Canegrowers Bundaberg and Bargara State School.

Community Reef Protection

PROJECT DELIVERY PARTNERS

In 2018-19, we announced investments in Reef projects to be delivered in partnership with more than 130 organisations involved including Traditional Owners, NRM groups, local marine advisory committees (LMACs), schools, local and state government, agriculture organisations, not-for-profit organisations, research institutions, GBRMPA and others. The lead contracted project partners as at 30 June 2019 are:

Water quality

BRIA Irrigators
 Catchment Solutions
 Farmacist
 Greening Australia
 Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
 NQ Dry Tropics
 Qld Cane Growers Organisation
 Qld Farmers Federation
 Resource Consulting Services Australia
 Sugar Research Australia

Traditional Owner Reef Protection

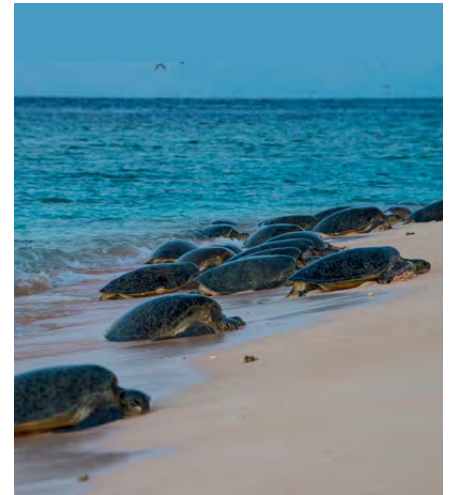
Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation
 Dawul Wuru Aboriginal Corporation
 Djarnda Enterprises
 Gidarjil Development Corporation
 Giringun Aboriginal Corporation
 Ipima Ikaya Aboriginal Corporation
 Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation
 Juru Enterprises
 Mandubarra Aboriginal Land and Sea Inc.
 Radiant Life Education
 South Cape York Catchments
 Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation
 Yuku Baja Muliku Landowner & Reserves Ltd

Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science

Australian Institute of Marine Science
 The University of Queensland

Community Reef Protection

Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers
 Bowen Tourism and Business
 Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative
 Cairns and Far North Environment Centre
 Earthwatch Institute
 Fitzroy Basin Association
 Flying Fish Point State School
 Gidarjil Development Corporation
 Great Barrier Reef Research Expeditions
 James Cook University
 Lady Musgrave Experience
 Marine Discoveries
 Port Douglas Daintree Tourism
 Queensland University of Technology
 Reef Catchments (Mackay Whitsunday Isaac)
 Reef Check Foundation
 Reef Ecologic
 Science under Sail
 South Cape York Catchments
 The University of Queensland
 Turtle Care Volunteers Queensland
 Whitsunday Charter Boat Industry Association
 Whitsunday Regional Council



GOVERNANCE

Partnership Management Committee

The Partnership Management Committee, comprised of science, research, marine, industry and project management experts, is charged with overseeing the investment and tracking progress over the six-year program.

John Gunn, Co-chair
 Steve Sargent, Co-chair
 Deb Callister
 Theresa Fyffe
 Dr Geoff Garrett AO
 Dr Paul Greenfield AO
 Larissa Hale
 Prof. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg
 Margaret Johnson
 Wendy Morris
 Elisa Nichols

LOOKING AHEAD: 2019-2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Delivered on 30 June 2019, the 2019–2020 Annual Work Plan details the focus areas for investment, with the majority of funding allocated directly into projects and implementation, signalling the shift from foundational planning in the first 12 months of the Partnership to doing. These activities are positioned in the context of the five-year investment profile for each component. An executive summary to this plan was also produced which outlines the 2019–2020 activities and budgets.



Key highlights for 2019-2020:

Establishing a Traditional Owner Reef Futures Fund



Commencing the world's most ambitious Reef restoration and adaptation effort



Developing regional community action plans to enhance coordination and impact of place-based community Reef protection activities



Supporting existing programs to control crown-of-thorns starfish while also exploring innovative new control approaches



Establishing a Technology Transformation Fund to test new Reef monitoring methods such as big data analytics, novel sensors and machine learning



Commencing roll-out of a targeted sediment and nutrient reduction program focused on practice change and landscape remediation across seven priority Reef catchments



REEF TRUST PARTNERSHIP 2018-19

The Reef Trust Partnership is a six year, \$443.3 million partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation to achieve significant improvement of the health of the Great Barrier Reef and deliver on the goals of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan.



Australian Government

REEF TRUST



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation