Timeline

MAY 2016
Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce Report released.

JULY-DECEMBER 2016
40 member consortium led by Terrain NRM wins two-stage tender to undertake design phase.

JANUARY–JUNE 2017
Design phase completed on time with outcome applauded as world class and exemplary.

OCTOBER 2017
Implementation contract awarded to Terrain NRM and partners.

MARCH 2018
MIP team established and work well underway.

JANUARY 2020
Over half way through implementation phase. All contracted milestones on target to date.

MARCH-APRIL 2020
Developed risk management strategies for COVID-19. Introducing new methods of communication to replace face-to-face contact with farmers and other key stakeholders.

MAY-SEPTEMBER 2020
Adaptive measures implemented to enable continued stakeholder engagement and other MIP activities. Annual data analysis and reporting completed for Local Scale Monitoring and Catchment Repair Systems. Cost benefit analysis reporting in progress for Farm Services and Catchment Repair Systems. Preparations have commenced for the approaching wet season.

Highlights

$4,096,888 LEVERAGE
TOTAL TO DATE

9 Tully & Innisfail staff *plus* **five Indigenous Water Quality Monitoring Officers**

41 LOCAL CONTRACTORS ENGAGED

$6,651,724
TOTAL VALUE
of local contracts & **BUSINESS** in Tully & Johnstone

"Most growers have said they'd like to attend shed meetings when social distancing restrictions are lifted."

– Sandra Henrich, Johnstone Basin Coordinator

The story so far

FARM SERVICES & COORDINATION

Shed meetings and demonstration sites established as the key engagement and extension mechanisms with farmers managing 70% of the cane and banana production area of the Johnstone and Tully basins.

- **1583** total participants and 414 unique participants.
- **37** sites across both basins demonstrating nitrogen loss pathways and improved land management practices.
- **33** shed meetings establishing trust in the water quality data by providing a 'place-based' response to growers' questions.
- Approximately **1500** samples collected by Johnstone Farm Services team and 315 samples collected by Tully Farm Services team.
- Grower-driven paddock-scale water monitoring by extension staff at **5** sites as a result of shed meetings.
- Monthly extension network meetings and regular technical information sessions established to share information and streamline messages across all Reef programs, productivity services and agri-business.
- 'Walking the Landscape' discovery workshops with local landholders held in 31 sub-catchments across both basins as foundation for informing catchment repair, local scale monitoring and farm services site selection.

CATCHMENT REPAIR & TREATMENT SYSTEMS

2019/20 – 16 projects established

- **7** bioreactors constructed.
- **1** riparian revegetation demonstration site completed.
- **4** wetlands have been constructed.
- **1** high efficiency sediment basin complete.
- **2** vegetated drains constructed, and a study to assess the effectiveness of vegetated drains for dissolved inorganic nitrogen removal established.
- **1422** water quality samples undertaken at Catchment Repair Systems.
- Data analysis for bioreactors, HES (High Efficiency Sediment) basin, vegetated drains and wetlands completed.
- Partnership established with Griffith University Rivers Institute to understand the role of natural wetlands in improving water quality.

LOCAL SCALE MONITORING PROGRAM

Designed and established water quality monitoring at 25 sites

- **20** grab sampling sites.
- **3** in-situ sites (measurements every half hour).
- **2** intensively monitored paddock sites equipped with **5** autosamplers (triggered by run-off).
- Samples collected from **16** piezometers across farm demonstration sites.
- Over **1600** samples have been collected to date for pesticides, total suspended sediment and/or nutrient analysis.
- Implemented with a Water Quality Technical Advisory Group (WQTAG).
- Analysis undertaken by the Cairns Regional Council Laboratory – a growing and positive local partnership.
- Monthly routine grab sampling across all major land uses.
- **3** stream flow events were sampled during 2019/20.

INFLUENCING

- Foundation Methodology for Accounting Reduction in Nutrient Run-off through Managed Fertiliser Application – Version 1.1 has been approved for use under the Reef Credit Scheme.
- Foundation methodology for sediment is still being finalised.
- Pilot projects are underway with five projects in the WTMIP region with total expected **4%** contribution toward dissolved inorganic nitrogen target.

"Onsite monitoring is great. Taking the farmers with you is the key to success. The MIP is the best thing that has happened so far (with water quality issues)."

– Landholder, Tully

"Farmers have expressed gratitude that the project is still continuing to collect water quality data. For them, it shows we care about them as agricultural producers and also the environment."

– Suzette Argent, Catchment Repair Coordinator