Reef 2050 Plan outcomes and targets: water quality

OUTCOMES (2050)

Reef water quality sustains the Outstanding Universal Value, builds resilience and improves ecosystem health over each successive decade.

TARGETS (2020)

WQT2
By 2018:
• 90 per cent of sugarcane, horticulture, cropping and grazing lands are managed using best management practice systems (soil, nutrient and pesticides) in priority areas
• Minimum 70 per cent late dry season ground cover on grazing lands
• The extent of riparian vegetation is increased
• There is no net loss of the extent, and an improvement in the ecological processes and environmental values, of natural wetlands.

[From Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013]

WQT1
By 2018:
• at least a 50 per cent reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads in priority areas, on the way to achieving up to an 80 per cent reduction in nitrogen by 2025
• at least a 20 per cent reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment loads of sediment in priority areas, on the way to achieving up to a 50 per cent reduction by 2025
• at least a 20 per cent reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment loads of particulate nutrients in priority areas
• at least a 60 per cent reduction in end-of-catchment pesticide loads in priority areas.

[From Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013 targets, based on a comparison with a 2009 baseline]

WQT3
By 2020, Reef-wide and locally relevant water quality targets are in place for urban, industrial, aquaculture and port activities and monitoring shows a stable or improving trend.

WQT4
Water quality in the Great Barrier Reef has a stable or positive trend.

WQT5
WQT5: Traditional Owners, industry and community are engaged in on-ground water quality improvement and monitoring.

OBJECTIVES (2035)

WQO1
A healthy Reef that supports sustainable lifestyles and livelihoods, and provides coastal communities with protection from extreme weather events.

WQO2
Local, regional and Reef-wide community benefits are understood and the community is actively engaged in managing Reef activities.

TARGETS (2020)

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WATER QUALITY SUB-THEMES

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS OF OUTCOMES: SUCCESSFUL AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE CHANGE

Grazing land

WETLANDS

ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

RIPIARAN VEGETATION

END OF CATCHMENT LOADS

INDICATORS

PRESSURES

DRIVERS