

# Daintree River Catchment

## Catchment Information

### Description

Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	2192
% Gauged	39
Mean Discharge Yr (km <sup>3</sup> )	1.26
Rainfall (mm)	2492
Runoff (mm/m <sup>2</sup> )	575
Runoff/Rainfall Ratio	23

### Land Use

Population	738
Clearing (km <sup>2</sup> )	11
% Cleared	1
Area under Grazing (km <sup>2</sup> )	45 <sup>*</sup>
Area under Sugar (km <sup>2</sup> )	48 <sup>*</sup>
Area under Horticulture (km <sup>2</sup> )	<1

### Pesticide Application

(Kg Active Ingredient/Yr)

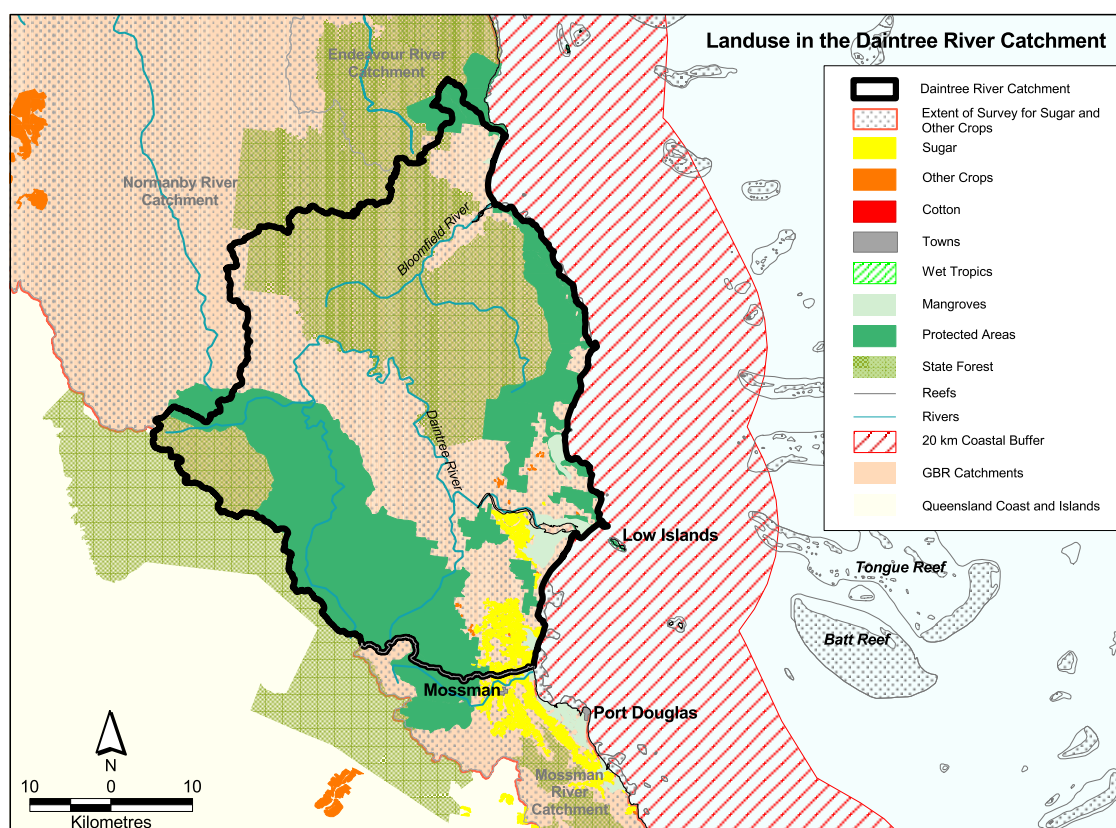
Atrazine	3368
Diuron	2378
2-4D	1804
Chlorpyrifos	1319
MEMC	20

Source: <sup>\*</sup>Russell et al., 1998

## Catchment Targets

	1850 T/yr	Current T/yr	Current T/ km <sup>3</sup>	ratio	2011 % Red'n	2011 T/yr Target	2011 T/ km <sup>3</sup> Target
Sediment Export	2300	94132	74603	4.1	0	94132	74603
Total N Export	169	499	396	2.9	33	334	265
Total P Export	8	53	42	6.6	33	36	28

Data Confidence Index = 1



## *Daintree River Catchment*

The Daintree River catchment covers an area of 2192 km<sup>2</sup>. Approximately 1780 km<sup>2</sup> of the catchment is in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. State forests and timber reserves occupy 784 km<sup>2</sup>. Grazing occupies 45 km<sup>2</sup>. Other land uses include sugarcane 48 km<sup>2</sup> with less than <1 km<sup>2</sup> of horticultural land. Sediment export is classified as low risk, and total nitrogen and total phosphorus exports are classified as medium risk in the Daintree River catchment.

### *Issues in the catchment:*

- Small areas of significant erosion in cropping lands.
- Clearing of land in the lower Daintree has resulted in significant streambank erosion and siltation problems.
- In areas where vegetation has not been disturbed, streams are in a relatively pristine condition.
- The area is becoming a significant tourist destination with urban facilities developing in agricultural land and undisturbed forests.
- Some fauna species are threatened.
- Approximately 81% of the catchment is within protected areas.
- Small area cleared for cropping with increasing pesticide usage.
- Close proximity to inshore reef areas.
- Commercial and recreational fishery.
- Extensive marine tourism.

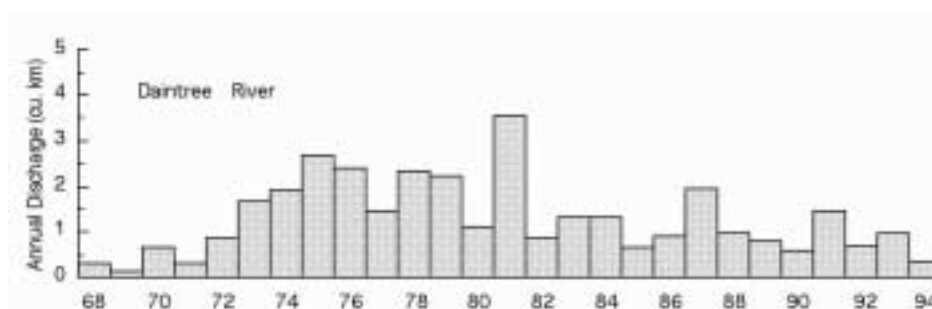


Figure 8. Water discharge patterns in the Daintree River.