



# Reef Achievements in the Fitzroy Basin 2008-2016



The Great Barrier Reef contributes \$532 million to the Fitzroy Basin economy and employs 5926 people in our community. (Source: Deloitte Access Economics)

Fitzroy Basin Association is committed to safeguarding the reef for current and future generations, through partnerships and projects with Government, industry, community and local landholders.



**CITIZENS OF THE  
GREAT BARRIER REEF**

[www.citizensgbr.org](http://www.citizensgbr.org)

# OUR GOAL: An annual reduction of 390,000 tonnes of sediment every year.

Fitzroy Basin Association and our delivery partners support landholders to restore degraded areas, protect creeks and wetlands, and adopt best management practices through a range of projects and initiatives.

Collectively, these have prevented an estimated 49,829 tonnes\* of sediment from entering local waterways and reaching the reef each year. Reducing sediment also reduces the amount of harmful nutrients and pollutants that travel with it.

\$35.67 million  
(Government)



\$31.43 million  
(Landholder)

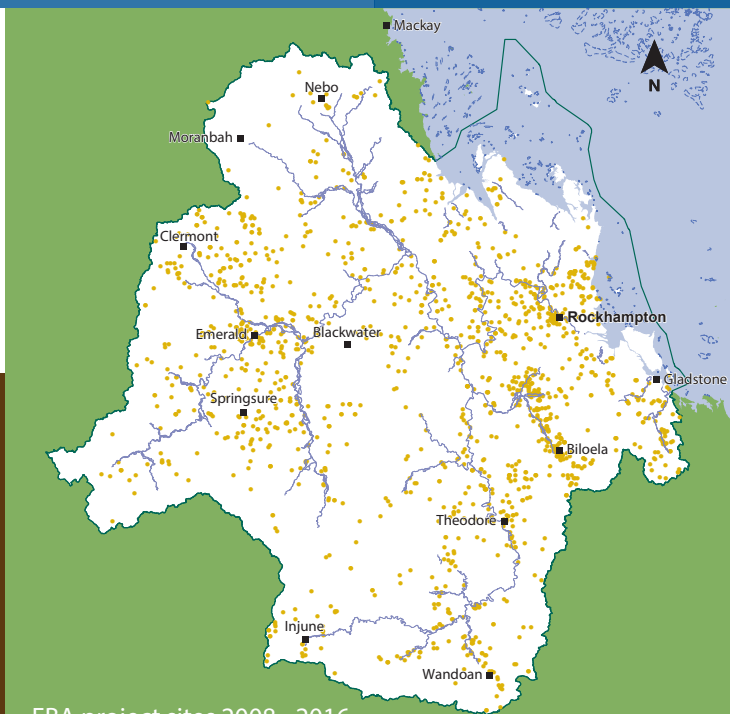


## 2008-16 Investment

1132 projects  
encompassing  
1,040,718ha  
involving  
761 landholders  
who manage  
5,377,857ha



65 projects  
55,009ha  
45% of  
cotton growing area



FBA project sites 2008 - 2016



2815km  
of stream and  
river banks protected

726 projects  
744,435ha  
6% of  
grazing area



65 projects  
3984ha  
67% of  
horticultural area



276 projects  
237,290ha  
30% of  
cropping area



# Why focus on agriculture and sediment?

Reducing sediment = better water quality = a healthier and more resilient reef.

At over 156,000 square kilometres, Fitzroy Basin is the largest river system draining to Australia's east coast and the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. 90% of the landscape is used to produce food and fibre, and Fitzroy Basin is also home to nearly 25% of QLD's cattle (over 2.6 million head, which is more than the whole of the Northern Territory).



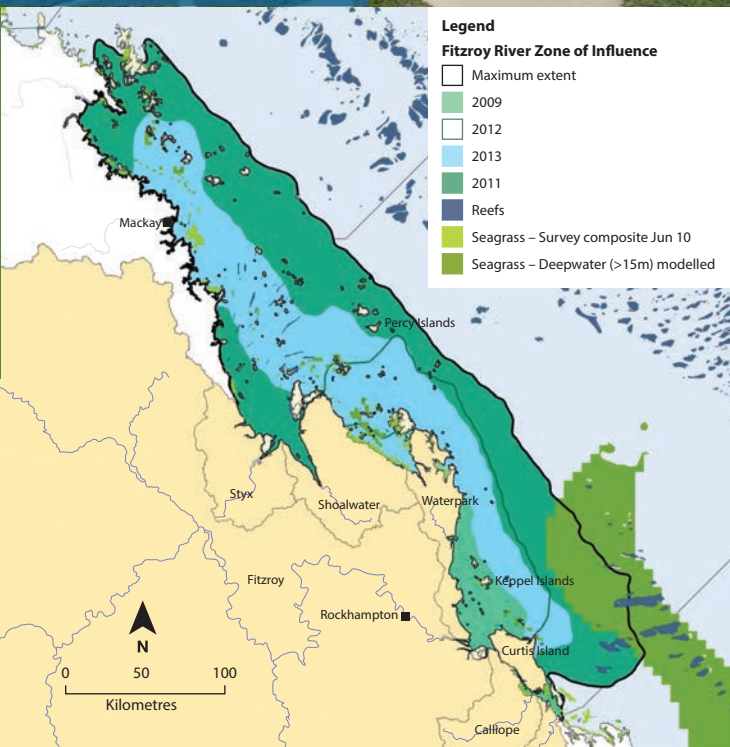
Australian soils are particularly susceptible to erosion once groundcover is removed. Once erosion starts, it can take decades to halt and reverse. As soil disappears, production declines.

Wetlands and estuaries are the last filter before water reaches the GBR lagoon... protecting them is as important as reducing sediment runoff.



## Along with hard hooves comes a significant challenge:

protecting soil structure and retaining ground cover. Compared with other land uses, grazing contributes the largest % of sediment runoff into waterways. Increased sediment in waterways negatively impacts water quality and the health of the Great Barrier Reef.



Queensland is home to over 40% of Australia's beef cattle which at the farm gate, was valued at \$5.07 billion in 2014-15. Beef is Australia's largest agricultural export, and production is Queensland's largest manufacturing industry.\*\*



**Makes you think** – Fitzroy Basin loses an estimated 4.1 million tonnes of sediment each year. If 20 square metres can grow enough vegetables to feed just one person for a year... we're losing enough soil to feed 110,215 families every year!

\* Figures are extrapolated from publicly available data found at <http://www.reefplan.qld.gov.au/measuring-success/report-cards/>

\*\* SOURCE: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/beef/queensland-product>

# It's not just about reducing dirt and saving coral...

It's about ensuring our environment continues to provide the things we want, need and enjoy, and ensuring our air and water remain among the cleanest in the world. Looking after the natural systems that provide our food and fibre while also benefitting our agricultural and tourism industries safeguards our communities, and native plants and animals.

**Here are 5 steps you can take that all have a positive impact on our reef and the health of our planet.**



**1** Visit the reef and other natural areas, and support organisations that care for and protect them.



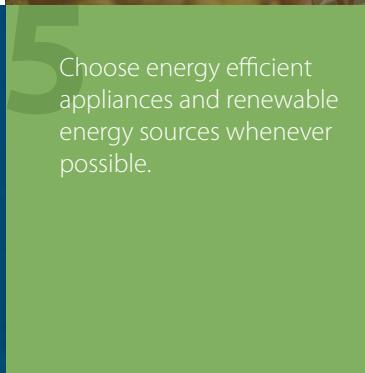
**2** Join a local industry or environmental group that is taking positive action to look after our natural resources.



**3** Advocate for and support businesses that are implementing socially responsible and environmentally sustainable practices.



**4** Participate in long-life and recyclable purchases, and responsible disposal of rubbish (avoid plastic where you can).



**5** Choose energy efficient appliances and renewable energy sources whenever possible.



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