Reef Trust Phase Three
Water Quality Incentive Grants
Wet Tropics Sugar Cane Growers

Wet Tropics Sugar Cane Partnership

WTSIP (pronounced ‘wtsip’) is a partnership between 15 organisations including industry bodies, productivity boards, mills, natural resource management and government.

Reef Trust Phase 3

WTSIP’s partners are working together to deliver the Australian Government’s Reef Trust Phase 3 (RT3) program in the Wet Tropics sugar cane industry.

The key focus of RT3 is on providing industry-led training and extension. The goal is to help growers adopt specific practices to improve water quality. These practices are listed as those that will also benefit growers in terms of improved yields and profits.

WTSIP Extension Officers

WTSIP’s Extension Officers are hosted by the partner organisations. They are working one-on-one with growers to work toward a ‘whole farming system’ approach to nutrient, weed and soil management.

Water Quality Incentive Grants

In addition to one-on-one extension support, RT3 is also providing $1.5 million in grants to Wet Tropics sugar cane growers for water quality projects.

There will be two rounds of funding – August/September 2017 and early 2018 (dates tbc). All funded projects need to be completed by May 2019.

Terms and conditions apply. You can read more in the application guidelines available on the website: www.wtsip.org.au/reef-trust-3-grants

ELIGIBILITY

Are you eligible?

To apply for a water quality project you must:

- Own or manage a cane property in one of the Wet Tropics river catchments (Daintree-Mossman, Barron, Mulgrave-Russell, Johnstone, Tully-Murray, Herbert), or be a contractor providing services to such managers.
- Contribute a 50% co-investment for all projects as cash and/or in-kind, depending on the project.
- Have met all obligations for any previous funded projects
- Work with a WTSIP Extension Officer on benchmarking and mapping requirements.
- Complete Smartcane BMP self-assessment.

What projects are eligible?

Projects that will result in ‘Moderate to low risk’ and ‘Lowest risk’ columns of the Paddock to Reef Sugarcane Water Quality Risk Framework.

Practice categories are:

Soils
- Controlled traffic
- Land management during cane fallow
- Tillage

Nutrients
- Matching N supply to crop N requirements
- Timing of fertiliser application
- Application method

Herbicides
- Timing application of residual herbicides
- Targeting application to reduce the volume of herbicide applied
- Residual herbicide use in ratoons

Water
- Irrigation management
- Managing surface runoff

More information can be found in the guidelines.

KEY POINTS

DATES:
Applications Open – 7 August
Register of Interest Closes – 28 August
Applications Close – 22 September

FUNDING:
Single farm projects - up to $25,000
Multi-farm projects (2 or more farms) - up to $80,000
District-scale projects - up tp $100,000

MORE INFORMATION:
www.wtsip.org.au
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1.

Read the guidelines.
The guidelines are your main source of information. Please read them carefully as your application must meet all the requirements. They include a sample application form that you can use to draft your responses before submitting your application online.

Step 2.

Register your interest (ROI).
This simple form takes a few short minutes to complete and will help us manage the flow of applications better. Go to www.wtsip.org.au/reef-trust-3-grants and follow the link.
If you have problems completing the ROI, contact your WTSIP Extension Officer for help.

Step 3.

Complete benchmarking and mapping.
After you complete your register of interest a WTSIP Extension Officer will contact you to take you through the benchmarking and mapping and provide guidance on the application process.

Step 4.

Complete Smartcane BMP self-assessment, if you haven’t already done so.
This is a mandatory requirement. You can do this by contacting the CANEGROWERS Smartcane BMP program.
Go to: www.smartcane.com.au

Step 5.

Submit your application via the website by 22 September.
Go to www.wtsip.org.au/reef-trust-3-grants to submit your application online. Your WTSIP Extension Officer is also available to help if required.

ASSESSING APPLICATIONS

How projects will be assessed
Projects will be prioritised based on type of practices funded, the area of impact and value for money in terms of where the maximum benefit on water quality can be achieved. They will be assessed by a panel of experienced technical and industry personnel nominated by WTSIP.

CONTRACTS

What your obligations will be
If your application is successful you will enter into a contractual agreement with Terrain NRM on behalf of WTSIP. This agreement will require you to:
• Complete all the works proposed in your project application by May 2019
• Contribute 50% of the total project costs
• Develop a nutrient management plan with your WTSIP Extension Officer
• Obtain Smartcane BMP accreditation in the three core modules.

PROJECT PAYMENTS

Once you have signed a contract you will be paid an initial 40% of the funding. The remaining 60% will be paid after you’ve completed the project. If your project is completed and signed-off before the May 2019 deadline, the final 60% payment will be made earlier.