

Project Catalyst Update



As Project Catalyst enters a new phase of operation, we want to keep you as informed as possible on activities occurring with the project, changes to funding and of course future planned activities. When new or updated information is available, we will communicate with you via an update that can be accessed online on the Project Catalyst website located at: www.projectcatalyst.net.au/news
A text and email will be sent out to notify you when an update is available to be viewed.

Great Barrier Reef Foundation

In April 2019 Project Catalyst was successful in securing funding for two years through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. For more details on the funding provided by the Great Barrier Reef please visit their webpage at <https://www.barrierreef.org/science-with-impact/reef-partnership/water-quality-improvement>

This funding takes over from the previous Federal Government Reef Trust 3 program and is to provide support for:

- New Innovation Trials commencing in 2019
 - o In May 2019 an Expression of Interest was distributed to growers, Agronomists, Extension Officers, Industry Groups and Productivity

Boards seeking to find the next wave of innovation trials that Project Catalyst could support.

- o 26 applications were received and these have now been reviewed by a panel of industry peers to select 10 that will commence in 2019. Once the agreements have been finalised with the On-Ground Service Providers and the growers, the successful trials will be listed on the Project Catalyst Website.
- Continuation of selected existing trials
 - o A number of trials that were already underway were reviewed and chosen to continue for the next two years. The extra data collected for these trials will greatly assist in

validating the results collected so far and potentially lead to improved practices being available to the broader grower community.

- Broader Adoption Validation work
 - o Project Catalyst has helped many growers to introduce improved farming practices into their farming systems over its 11 years of operation. This part of the Project is designed to expand that group by introducing new growers to some of the previously trialed and proven methods. By providing support through the Agronomists currently working with Project Catalyst we hope to increase the uptake of new and improved practices.

Project Catalyst Grower Forum 2020



The Project Catalyst Annual Forum provides an opportunity for all sugarcane growers, industry bodies and suppliers to meet, network, share ideas and hear from guest speakers on a range of topics to do with the industry, Water Quality and the Great Barrier Reef.

Forum 2020 is keenly anticipated on Daydream Island, off the Whitsunday

Coast of Queensland from the 23rd to the 25th of February. The resort recently reopened following extensive renovations after TC Debbie in 2017 and this is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the fantastic achievements by growers, whilst reconnecting with the Great Barrier Reef and experiencing the immersive activities (swimming and the new underwater

observatory for example), that the island now offers.

'Save the Date' emails went out recently and ticketing should be available by November this year. If you haven't received yours, please contact us at comms@catchmentsolutions.com.au or call Kim 0417 882 091



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



WWF-Australia - Board Visit, Mackay



Andrew Rouse from WWF-Australia talking to the visiting Board and local growers

In August 2019 the WWF-Australia board visited Mackay and the farm of Joe Muscat and his family. Joe is one of the original Project Catalyst growers and WWF Australia is one of the original founding partners so it was a good day to catchup and discuss long term relationships, changes to the industry and some of the challenges being faced by growers. A number of Project Catalyst growers from the area were also able to attend including Tony Bugeja and Gerry Deguara who were also part of the original Catalyst grower group.



Dermot O’Gorman, CEO WWF-Australia hearing a good story from Mackay Catalyst grower Gerry Deguara

A fantastic BBQ lunch was provided followed by a tour of Joe’s farm to inspect some of the trials and farming system improvements he has implemented over the years.

Be sure to check out our newest videos showcasing the very entertaining virtual

farm tours featuring growers from across the three catchment regions and the impressive work they are doing.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCq5Yng3Pcn7lf9HLwBcxOkA>



Enjoying a wonderful BBQ lunch



PROJECT CATALYST

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