



# Case Study

## Mixed fallow legumes



<b>LANDHOLDER</b>	Robert Quabba
<b>LOCATION</b>	Seymor
<b>CATCHMENT</b>	Lower Herbert
<b>RAINFALL</b>	Tara/Seymore annual rainfall 2019 - 3049mm. Cordelia annual rainfall 2019 - 3022.9mm
<b>PROPERTY SIZE</b>	237 total ha
<b>ON-GROUND PROVIDER</b>	HCPSL

**Project Catalyst** is a grower led, sugar cane innovation and adoption project that explores, develops and validates farm management practice change to improve the enduring water quality of the Great Barrier Reef.

### BROADER ADOPTION VALIDATION & GROWER SUPPORT

Founded in 2009, the project operates in the Mackay Whitsunday, Burdekin and Wet Tropic regions to deliver valued practice change outcomes and develop methods for industry adoption. Under the Broader Adoption and Grower Support program, professional on-ground service providers assist selected growers to adopt and validate appropriate change practices. Service providers continue to monitor implementation benefits and derived environmental performance improvements. Through targeted extension activities, the program seeks to accelerate the uptake and broader adoption of improved farming practices at local, regional and industry levels.



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



### ●●●● Goal

To grow mixed legumes on all fallow blocks when possible



### ●●●● Overview

Robert wants to improve soil health across his farms by growing mixed legumes on his fallow block when possible.

By growing mixed legumes, Robert will be able to reduce his nitrogen rates in plant cane, improve weed pressure during fallow periods and reduce erosion after serious rain events.

### ●●●● Action

- Pre-mound & lime fallow blocks in preparation for planting mixed legumes.
- This season 2019/2020 Robert has planted some of his fallow blocks to mixed legume crops (Traditional mix of Ebony cowpea & Rongai lablab) in the Seymore area.
- Season of 2020/2021 Robert has missed his chance of growing mixed legume crop on his fallow ground due to extremes in the weather of very dry to very wet.

### ●●●● Outcome

Robert was able to get a traditional mix of legumes onto some of his fallow blocks in the 2019/2020 season. He has said that he was impressed with his plant crop following the mixed legumes ,but unfortunately it has lodge early and wil probably lose it's vigor.

Robert said that some of the paddock was stick planted and the other part was mound planted. The mound planted part of the block has lodge ,but not the stick planted section.

Robert will now trial different planting methods after decent legume crops to see if he can keep the cane standing for longer.

