



Case Study

Grower Support



LANDHOLDER	Drew Watson
LOCATION	Mossman
CATCHMENT	Mossman
RAINFALL	2000 - 3000mm
PROPERTY SIZE	610ha
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	Mossman Ag Services

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.



Cane crop in Mossman



Checking depth of coulters on Stool Splitter



Great Barrier
Reef Foundation



●●●● Goal

To continue to support Drew Watson as a Project Catalyst grower, his previous trial was an EEF fertiliser trial.



Land levelling using GPS controlled Scoop

●●●● Overview

The trial Drew has previously conducted on his farm was an Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser trial through Project Catalyst.

Drew is interested in trying new ideas that may suit his farming operations, while also looking to reduce costs and maintain productivity.

●●●● Action

Continue to provide support to Drew Watson and assist where necessary with extension advice. Nutrient Management Plan produced.

The Enhance Efficiency Fertiliser Trials in this case did not show results that encouraged further use across the farm. With further information or research there could be a place for them, but without further information it is difficult to determine where they can be used.

●●●● Outcome

Drew has continued trials through other programs, with some Nitrogen rate reduction trials through other programs, which are currently being monitored and will be harvested in 2021. As well as being part of other on going Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser trials.

He also routinely GPS levels blocks, with the help of MAS to take levels across blocks, and provide the mapping plans and hire of the GPS controlled scoop.



Cane crop in Mossman

