



Case Study

Variable Rate Mud



LANDHOLDER	Robert Bonassi
LOCATION	Bambaroo, Ingham
CATCHMENT	Lower Herbert
RAINFALL	1432mm
PROPERTY SIZE	200ha
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	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 use mud at variable rates to address soil constraints and poor yielding areas.



●●●● Overview

Robert wants to address poor yielding area within his blocks by applying variable rates of mud, focusing on specific areas of poorer soil. Some areas of Roberts farm are sandy loams and suffer from drought affects during the drier seasons. By applying more mud in these areas, he is hoping to hold better moisture. He hopes by doing this he can lift lower yielding areas within his cane blocks.

●●●● Action

- EM map blocks to understand where poorer soils lay within the paddock.
- Soil test specific area in relation to EM map results.
- Look at yield maps to see if EM map matches lower yielding patches and take these areas into consideration.
- Have prescription made to be able to apply variable rates of mud to specified areas.

●●●● Outcome

Robert has EM mapped some blocks and applied variable rates of mud across these blocks. He is hoping to see improvements in moisture stress and yield where the extra mud has been applied.

