



Case Study

Refining Whole Farm Nutrient Management Planning



LANDHOLDER	PCCCF2020BAV12
LOCATION	Silkwood
CATCHMENT	Johnstone
RAINFALL	3283 mm
PROPERTY SIZE	91.5 ha
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	CANEGROWERS Innisfail

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.



Fertilising Trial Block



Trial Block February 2022



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



●●●● Goal

To refine the growers whole of farm nutrient management plan with a specific focus on steps 5 & 6 of the SIX EASY STEPS program.



Trial paddock at fertilising

●●●● Overview

Having had a whole of farm nutrient management plan developed for the farm and following the plan for a few years now, the grower is interested in refining their nutrient rates to take into account all aspects of nutrient management.

This plan will take into account a wide range of agronomic data and farm production data as well as grower knowledge and experience to tailor their existing Nutrient Management Plan.

●●●● Action

As part of updating their Nutrient Management Plan the grower indicated that they were interested in adjusting the fertiliser used on some of their ratoons.

As part of the nutrient management plan update, a full review of the previous years fertiliser and nutrient rates was completed. This was then assessed along with the farm productivity data, new and historic soil testing results and the growers knowledge and experience.

This process checks the adequacy of all nutrients applied, trends in block fertility and grower knowledge.

As a result of the nutrient management plan review and update, some paddocks with marginal phosphorous levels were identified. To further assess the phosphorous (P) requirements of these paddocks a fertiliser strip trial has been established comparing 0kg/ha P and 10kg/ha P. This trial will be harvested in 2022 and the results will be used to further refine their Nutrient Management Plan.

●●●● Outcome

The grower is happy with his nutrient management plan and at this stage there is no visible differences between the different phosphorous application rates. Once the block is harvested the results will be used to further refine the growers nutrient management plan further utilising steps 5 & 6 of the SIX EASY STEPS program.



Trial Block February 2022

