

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 6  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Program:** Biodiversity Conservation Division (BCD)  
**Topic:** Great Barrier Reef – catchment area  
**Hansard Page:** 110  
**Question Date:** 27 February 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Chisholm asked:**

Senator CHISHOLM: Regarding the reef catchments, do we actually have a figure on how many farms there are that would be considered to be in the catchment area?

Ms Parry: We can have access to those figures, but I would need to take that on notice.

Senator CHISHOLM: This will probably be on notice: what percentage of those farmers have been involved in programs?

Ms Parry: I will take that on notice as well, but I have a sneaking suspicion we were asked a very similar question in last estimates and we provided a written response. I will just make a quick check. Given that some of our other reef trust investments have come online since last estimates, I might again take that question on notice so that I can provide you with the most up-to-date figures.

**Answer:**

***Number of farms in the Great Barrier Reef catchments***

<b>Region</b>	<b>No of Farms</b>
Cape York	52
Wet Tropics	2 570
Burdekin	1 783
Mackay Whitsunday	1 810
Fitzroy	4 300
Burnett Mary	3 547
<b>GBR TOTAL</b>	<b>14 062</b>

Supplied by Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, based on the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program under the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan 2013-2018

**Farmer and landholder involvement in Reef Trust and Reef Program investments**

Project	Objectives	Applications	Successful	Unsuccessful	# of farmers/ landholders engaged
<b>Reef Trust Phase 1</b>					
Reverse tender - cane (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in nitrogen discharge from the Wet Tropics sugar cane industry leading to improvement in Reef water quality	21  (direct from landholders)	15  (1 withdrew so only 14 contracts executed)	6	14
Grazing (non-competitive)	Promotion of grazing best management practice	-	-	-	20 graziers (total for project)
<b>Reef Trust Phase 2</b>					
Reverse tenders – cane (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in nitrogen discharge from the Burdekin sugar cane industry leading to improvement in Reef water quality	21  (direct from landholders)	17  (1 withdrew so only 16 contracts executed)	4	16
Gully erosion control (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in sediment run-off from high risk gully erosion areas in Reef catchments, to improve water quality	8  (from delivery partners who then engage with landholders)	6	2	At least 31 to be directly engaged in piloting gully erosion control techniques with each of these projects having a significant outreach component
<b>Reef Trust Phase 3</b>					
Water Quality package (competitive grants process)	To address nutrient, pesticide and sediment loss through targeted investment to facilitate agricultural industry best management practice adoption and innovation to provide cost effective water quality improvements	6  (from delivery partners to run a competitive grants and extension process and engage with landholders)	4	2	These projects aim to reach more than 2,000 farmers and graziers managing nearly 3 million hectares
<b>Reef Trust Phase 4</b>					
Repeat tender - cane (competitive grants process over 4 rounds)	Long-term reduction in nitrogen discharge from the Wet Tropics and Burdekin sugar cane industry leading to improvement in Reef water quality	Round 1 closed March 2017	TBD	TBD	TBD

Project	Objectives	Applications	Successful	Unsuccessful	# of farmers/ landholders engaged
Enhanced Efficiency Fertiliser project	Project will support cane farmers to trial enhanced efficiency fertilisers (EEFs) as a strategy to reduce the loss of fertiliser nitrogen to the Reef	Cane grower expression of interest process scheduled for April/May 2017	-	-	Will deliver 180 trial years (60 trials across 3 seasons)
Gully and streambank erosion control (competitive grants process)	Long-term reduction in sediment run-off from high risk gully and streambank erosion areas in Reef catchments, to improve water quality	Expected commencement in mid-2017	TBD	TBD	Actions will occur in up to ten priority management units located across Reef NRM regions
<b>Reef Trust Phase 5</b>					
MSF Sugar initiative - Project Uplift	Provision of financial assistance and agronomic advice to assist in the change and redesign of cane farms for improved efficiency and drainage and to achieve significant water quality improvements.	-	-	-	MSF Sugar will establish 36 grower groups based around a harvester group – numbers in each grower group will vary however each group will produce approx. 50,000 tonnes of cane (or more) and farm approximately 500-600 ha
<b>Reef Program</b>					
Water Quality Grants		12	7	5	As at June 2015 approximately 1,345 farmers/landholders have been engaged under Reef Program
Water Quality Partnerships		9	6	2 (1 withdrawal)	
Systems Repair on-ground		31	14	17	