Reef Protection Package - Implementation

Australian Fertiliser Industry Conference
Gold Coast
August 23-25 2010

Reef Plan Schematic Diagram

Reef Plan

Reef Legislation Package

Reef Rescue
Reef Protection Package

- Great Barrier Reef Protection Amendment Act 2009 – Chapter 4A of Environmental Protection Act 1994.
- Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Amendment Regulation 2009.
- Commenced 1 January 2010.

Purpose of the Reef Protection Package

Legislation

- Reduce the impact of agricultural activities on the quality of water entering the reef.
- Contribute to achieving the targets about water quality improvement for the reef under agreements between the State and the Commonwealth from time to time.

Reef Plan 2013

- Minimum 50% reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus loads at the end of catchments.
- Minimum 50% reduction in pesticides at the end of catchments.
- Minimum of 50% late dry season groundcover on dry tropical grazing land & reduce sediment by a fifth by 2020.
Who does the legislation apply to?

- Wet Tropics, Burdekin Dry Tropics, Mackay Whitsunday catchments.
- Commercial sugarcane.
- Cattle grazing >2000 hectares.

Requirements for Growers & Graziers

- Soil testing – to calculate optimum rate of fertiliser application according to regulated Methodology
- Fertilizer – apply no more than optimum rate – N & P
- Record-keeping – Herbicides, Prescribed Herbicides and Nitrogen and Phosphorus Fertilisers
- Atrazine, Diuron, Ametryn, Hexazinone and Tebuthiuron– usage and qualifications
- ERMP – Wet Tropics catchment >70ha Cane Production Area; Burdekin Dry Tropics >2000ha Cattle Grazing
- Nutrient or Chemical ERMP if grower can’t meet statutory requirements
Strategy

• Compliance
  – Information
    • Advice, Extension and Education
    • Documentation, Methodologies and Written Advice
    • Web Page
  – Enforcement
• Policy Development and Determination
• Administration and Procedures

Principles

• Consultative
• Outcome focused
• Responsive, flexible and adaptive
• Supportive, approachable and communicative
• Clear, consistent, reliable and positive
• Equitable, robust and transparent
• Reasonable and practical
Compliance: Information - Advice

• 25 Reef Protection Officers
  – 4 DEEDI Agricultural Reef Protection Support Officers
  – 5 FTE DEEDI Agricultural Reef Protection Technical Advice Officers
  – Intensive training program
  – Shed Meetings
  – Telephone and Over the Counter advice
  – Limited one-on-one support
• HotLine 1300 130 372 option 8

Compliance: Information - Extension

• Partnership with Industry
  – AgForce
  – CANEGROWERS, ACFA, Mills, Productivity Boards
  – Natural Resource Management Bodies
  – Receive:
    • Funding
    • Technical and policy support and training
  – Deliver:
    • Workshops
    • Individual and group advice, assistance and support
Compliance: Information - Extension

- Ongoing technical support
  - Reef Policy Mobile Advice Team
  - Reactive
    - One-on-one support as needed eg literacy/numeracy problems
    - Identified short term technical advice to support ERMP preparation
  - Pro-active
    - Identify and broker or prepare and present field days, workshops and training to support adoption of best practice farm management for ERMP renewal
    - Ongoing promotion of best practice land management through facilitating market supply of training and education to growers

Compliance: Information - Documentation, Methodologies and Written Advice

- Mailouts and Questionnaires
- Guide to Reef Legislation Package
- Cane and Grazing soil testing and nutrient calculation methodologies
- Environmental Risk Management Plans templates, guides and sample
- Fact Sheets and Technical Notes
- Newsletter
Compliance: Information - Web Page

- Background science
- Frequently Asked Questions
- All written advice and documentation
  - Cane and Grazing soil testing and nutrient calculation methodologies
  - Environmental Risk Management Plans templates, guides and sample
  - Fact Sheets and Technical Notes
  - Newsletter
- Prescribed Forms and interactive forms and calculators
- Fertiliser and herbicide calculators
  www.reefwisefarming.qld.gov.au

Compliance: Enforcement

- Compliance Plan
- Compliance Principles
  - DERM Enforcement Principles
    - Engage
    - Explain
    - Educate
    - Encourage
    - Enforce
- Enforcement Strategy
  - Achieve compliance not penalise operators
Policy Development & Determination

- Adaptive and responsive
  - Amendments to the *Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Amendment Regulation 2009*
  - Establish trials to investigate certain soil/fertiliser/management relationships
- Consultative
  - Regional staff
  - Peak Industry Bodies
  - Other stakeholders
- Documented and communicated for consistency

Administration and Procedures

- Standard Operating Procedures
  - Based on existing Environmental Protection Procedures
  - Documented for consistency
- Business Management Systems
  - Supporting and processing ERMPs
  - Preparing and processing Annual Returns
  - Managing client information
  - Managing policy determinations
  - Tracking land management practice change over time
Roll-out

Reef Legislation Implementation

2009
- Develop project plan, timelines and milestones
- Recruit Service Delivery Staff – regional and policy support
- Develop and deliver intensive induction training
- Prepare and deliver methodology documents
- Shed meetings – overview and ‘strict requirements’

2010
- Ongoing RPO training and policy clarification
- Negotiate and engage DEEDI and PI collaborative relationships
- Prepare ERMP documents and deliver ERMP workshops
- Accredit ERMPs

2011
- Gap analysis, compliance review and Annual Reports
Future Directions

- Quantify relationship between agricultural land management practices and reef water quality
- Continual refinement of science, technology and management
- Ongoing delivery and uptake of current best practice land management information, extension and education
- Collaboration in Reef Plan Extension and Education Strategy implementation
- Normalise best practice land management
- Voluntary uptake of best land management practice by other industries or locations

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