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Reef Rescue Water Quality R&D Program – Inception Workshop

16 and 17 June 2011
Brisbane



Australian Government
Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry





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Introduction to Reef Rescue

The Reef Rescue Water Quality R&D Program has 2 broad goals:

- Improve understanding of links between land management practices and environmental impacts
- Support the adaptive delivery of other Reef Rescue programs – WQ Grants, Partnerships, Monitoring & Reporting



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Key Reef Rescue Achievements



To date:

- To date, 3600 land managers have been engaged in the initiative through farm planning, risk assessment and training activities, and 2000 have been provided with financial assistance to improve their practices over an area of more than 1.2 million hectares.
- These practice changes have resulted in decreased sediment, nutrient and pesticide loads reaching the reef – estimates to be provided under Paddock to Reef program
- landholders have received around \$40.4 million toward individual Water Quality Grants and contributed at least \$70 million of labour cash, machinery and equipment to projects.



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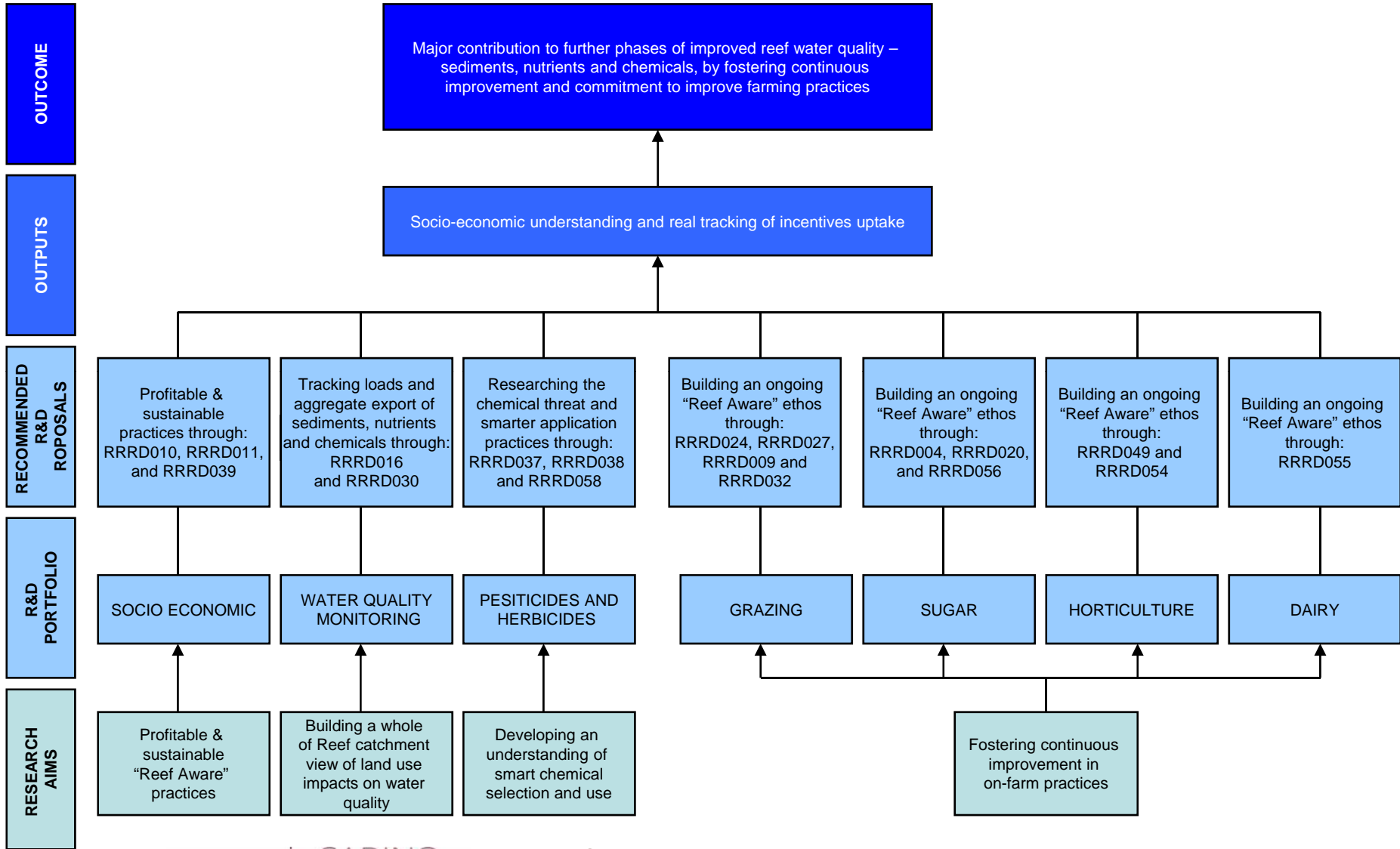
Reef Rescue R&D

Four research priorities:

- the development, trial and validation of land management practices and technologies that improve water quality outcomes;
- the development and application of new water quality monitoring techniques for nutrients, chemicals and sediments;
- assessment of the relative benefits/costs of various improved land management practices; and
- assessment of the extent and rate of adoption of improved land management practices that have water quality benefits.



THE PORTFOLIO



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Introduction to the RR team

- **Oversight:** Australian Government – Kevin Gale, Billy Quinn
- **Coordination:** Reef & Rainforest Research Centre – Jane Waterhouse, Col Creighton, Suzanne Long, Jo Johnson
- **Research:** CSIRO, JCU (ACTFR), DEEDI, DERM, BSES, UTS
- **Linkages:**
 - Australian Government – NERP
 - Queensland Government - Reef Plan P2R, RD&I Strategy, Reef Protection Package
 - Industry - SRDC, BSES, MLA, eReefs





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Workshop objectives

- Provide context of how each project fits into the overall portfolio.
- Build collaboration between Project Leaders and with program leaders of other relevant research activities.
- Review and finalise the draft program integration framework to guide Reef Rescue R&D.
- Commence identification of specific linkages between individual projects and data exchange requirements.





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Workshop objectives

- Map the Reef Rescue R&D projects against existing research activity to ensure maximum knowledge capture, data sharing and to provide a framework for end-users to receive outputs/results.
- Discuss and document ongoing communication arrangements for the Program.
- Build a calendar of events to identify opportunities to link with other research programs, activities and opportunities.





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Workshop outputs

- Program integration framework
- Draft map of program and project linkages
- Clear communication goals and process for delivering results
- Guidance for completing MERI and risk management plans
- Calendar of events for Program
- Opportunity for principle investigators and program leaders to meet and identify events for collaboration



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Workshop agenda

1. Program linkage framework
2. Program overview
3. Links to other programs
4. Knowledge exchange and delivery
5. MERI and risk management plans
6. Wrap-up and next steps





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Ground rules

- Treat everyone fairly
- Be creative
- Welcome new ideas
- Focus on solutions
- Be flexible in your thinking
- Turn mobile phones off



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