Reef protection regulations in the Great Barrier Reef regions
Changes for sugarcane growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions

The following table details the changes for sugarcane growers in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay Whitsunday regions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard</th>
<th>Unchanged / New / Removed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use the prescribed method for soil testing (as detailed in the Prescribed methodology for sugarcane cultivation available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations">www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations</a>).</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the prescribed method for calculating rates of nitrogen and phosphorus (as detailed in the Prescribed methodology for sugarcane cultivation available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations">www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations</a>).</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply no more nitrogen and phosphorus than the amount calculated using the prescribed method.</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep records of soil tests, nitrogen and phosphorus, mill mud, soil conditioners and agricultural chemicals applied (any pesticide, herbicide or fungicide applied to land or crops) (see the Record keeping for producers factsheet available online at <a href="http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations">www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations</a>).</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Risk Management Plan (ERMP) for sugarcane properties greater than 70 hectares in the Wet Tropics.</td>
<td>Removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>Unchanged / New / Removed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No ground-based broadcast application of fertilisers:</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• except for mill mud/ash and phosphorus-only fertiliser incorporated into the fallow prior to planting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures must be in place to minimise soil loss and run-off.</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallow blocks must have some form of surface cover.</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget</strong></td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>By 1 December 2021 (Wet Tropics/Burdekin/Mackay Whitsunday regions), or by 1 December 2022 (Burnett Mary and Fitzroy regions):</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• complete soil tests for plant blocks and calculate nitrogen and phosphorus recommendations for all blocks as per prescribed method (e.g. Six Easy Steps)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• add together nitrogen and phosphorus rates for all blocks to work out the whole-of-farm amount</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• identify constraints to yield and nutrient uptake</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• rates can be varied across blocks as long as the whole-of-farm amount is not exceeded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• must have a farm map</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• developed/verified by an appropriately skilled/experience person for the first time – then every five years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• reviewed and updated annually by the grower.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New/expanding sugarcane</strong></td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 1 June 2021 (deferred from 1 June 2020), new or expanded cropping activities (including sugarcane) in the Cape York, Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions on five hectares or more without a cropping history will require an environmental authority (permit) and need to:</td>
<td>New</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• meet requirements about farm design to manage water quality risks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• meet minimum practice agricultural standards.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>