What is the GRASS program?
The $6.073 million Grazing Resilience and Sustainable Solutions (GRASS) program provides beef producers with one-on-one support and tailored land management plans to address land in poor or degraded condition in the Reef catchments in the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett Mary regions.

Through participation in the GRASS program, graziers can access a range of resources and identify actions that lead to improved condition and productivity of poor or degraded land on their properties. Participation will also help graziers to identify measures that will prevent severely degraded areas from further degrading and understand the requirements of the new Reef protection regulations and the associated minimum standards for grazing in catchments that flow into the Great Barrier Reef.

This program supports jobs and services in the beef cattle grazing sector while contributing to improved water quality for local waterways that flow to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

Who can access the program?
The GRASS program is accessible to all graziers in the Burdekin, Fitzroy and Burnett-Mary regions who have some land in a poor or degraded condition.

When will the program start and how long does it run for?
The program runs from October 2019 until June 2022.

Who is delivering the program and what stakeholders are involved?
The GRASS program is funded through the Queensland Government Reef Water Quality Program and is delivered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF), Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG), Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) and NQ Dry Tropics.

Extension officers from these groups provide support and information to participants in each region.

How much funding will go to participants?
The DAF and regional natural resource management (NRM) groups will work with landholders to develop tailored land management plans. The cost of each plan will depend on the size and condition of participating properties. This allocation covers the time, mapping information, and tools and extension services required to develop each property specific plan.

In addition, $1.78 million of financial incentives for on-farm infrastructure improvements such as fencing, water troughs and erosion works will be offered to eligible participating graziers through the program. The amount of funding that is available to graziers is dependent on the scale of the project and is assessed based on private/public benefit.

Will GRASS offer an opportunity for graziers to be considered a low priority for compliance?
The Queensland Government will acknowledge graziers participating in the GRASS program as a low priority for compliance visits for the duration of their involvement in this program.

In addition, despite the absence of the Grazing BMP, the Queensland Government will acknowledge graziers that were accredited at 30 June 2019 under the former Grazing BMP. These graziers will be considered as a low priority for compliance visits for the duration of their involvement in this program.
compliance risk for five years from 1 December 2019.

This is to acknowledge that participating GRASS and Grazing BMP accredited landholders are proactively undertaking efforts to reduce nutrient or sediment runoff from their properties and contribute to improved water quality for the Great Barrier Reef.

As part of the acknowledgement process, participating graziers will be asked to provide consent for their name, property address and term of involvement in the project (or Grazing BMP status and term at 30 June 2019) to be included in a register of “low risk properties”. The register will be provided to the Department of Environment and Science to help prioritise grazing land in poor or degraded condition where action is required. Provision of this information by landholders is optional and it is not a requirement for participation in the GRASS program.

What information about graziers will the GRASS program collect and manage?

The program will collect and report information about land management practice change to the Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program (P2R). The information includes GIS polygons of where practice change has occurred and responses to the P2R practice adoption questions.

Spatial data is aggregated and de-identified (no names, address, or contact details) and is reported across the program. This allows the Department of Environment and Science to report on the outcomes of the GRASS program and for the grazing community to be acknowledged for their improvements to land managed within catchments of the Great Barrier Reef.

The treatment and protection of anonymous information assists the program and broader industry to continue to improve services delivered to graziers, better tailor the GRASS program and other funding programs to producer needs and achieve greater land sustainability and Reef water quality outcomes.

How can graziers apply to participate in the GRASS program?

Graziers can apply to participate in the GRASS program by calling DAF on 13 25 23 or by contacting their local participating NRM (NQ Dry Tropics, FBA or BMRG) or extension officer.

Graziers are also encouraged to contact these groups to explore other opportunities for improving their land condition and pasture cover to assist with productivity, resilience and profitability.

Where can I find more information about the regulations?

The Queensland Government passed legislation designed to help preserve the health of the Great Barrier Reef.

The Reef protection regulations commenced on 1 December 2019 and set minimum practice standards for all sugarcane, beef production in Reef regions, excluding Cape York. The minimum practice standards for grains and horticulture will come into effect on 1 December 2022.

Guidelines that explain the practice standards and how to comply with them are available for all producers.

You can find more information, or register at [www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations](http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations) to receive an information pack that includes the guidelines and relevant information for graziers as well as regular updates on the regulations.