

Summary

Over the past 100 years, the land catchment areas adjacent to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area have undergone extensive development for agricultural production, urban expansion, transport infrastructure, tourism and mining. This has led to elevated levels of pollutants leaving these catchments and entering the reef, with the largest contributor being agricultural land use activities.

To address this, the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan) was endorsed by the Prime Minister and Queensland Premier in October 2003. Building on existing government programs and community initiatives, Reef Plan resulted in a more coordinated and cooperative approach to improving water quality. Reef Plan was substantially updated in 2009, with clear goals and targets for reducing pollutant levels.

