



Media release

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Priority areas chosen for on-ground work

Sustainability will be boosted across 13 catchments in the Fitzroy Basin region chosen as targets for on-ground work over the next year.

The catchments were identified as high priority areas through the Fitzroy Basin Association Inc. (FBA) Neighbourhood Catchments approach.

Catchments chosen are Phillips, Burngrove, St Lawrence Creek, Waverley Creek, Torilla, Ridler Creek, Degagil Creek, Tarramba Creek, Palm Tree Creek, Hutton Creek, Injune Creek, Buckland, and Billaboo.

FBA Chief Executive Officer Suzie Christensen said Neighbourhood Catchments (NC) encouraged neighbouring landholders and communities to work together to address environmental issues to improve productivity and sustainability.

"The Fitzroy Basin covers around 156,000km², which is more than twice the size of Tasmania, so we can't work everywhere at once," Ms Christensen said.

"By focussing our attention in priority neighbourhood catchments, our money is spent as strategically as possible and we have the chance to make a real impact," Ms Christensen said.

"FBA held a series of community workshops to help determine the neighbourhood catchments, based on a combination of scientific and local knowledge.

"We considered such things as erosion, biodiversity, weeds, and the location of coastal assets. In this way we are able to link current land management with its impact on the reef."

Ms Christensen said on-ground works and engagement activities would be carried out in collaboration between FBA and five sub-regional catchment groups.

She said while efforts would be focussed on the new catchments, activities would build on work done in prior Neighbourhood Catchments and there would be ongoing follow-up with those communities.

Almost 200 Neighbourhood Catchments have been identified by FBA in central Queensland.

Since 2004, FBA and subregional groups like FRCC have worked with hundreds of land managers in priority Neighbourhood Catchments resulting in more than 700 km of riverbank areas protected and 100,000 ha of improved land management.

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