



## Reef protection regulations for sugarcane growers

### What are the requirements?



- Keep general records.
- Comply with minimum practice agricultural standards.
- Obtain a permit for new or expanding commercial cropping and horticulture where required.
- Have a farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget.

### Minimum practice agricultural standards



- Use the prescribed method to carry out soil tests and calculate the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus that can be applied to each block each year.
- Apply no more than the calculated amount.
- Ground-based broadcast application of fertiliser containing nitrogen must not occur.
- Ground-based broadcast application of fertiliser containing phosphorus in preparation for a plant crop must be incorporated within three days.
- Have appropriate erosion and sediment control measures in place and ensure fallow blocks have surface cover.

### Farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget



From 1 December 2021, sugarcane growers will need to develop a nitrogen and phosphorous budget to calculate their fertiliser applications for each block for the coming season. The rules are still based on the SIX EASY STEPS™ and soil test results but growers can refine their rates across the farm as long as they do not exceed the whole-of-farm amount.

## New cropping and horticulture activities

If you are starting or expanding cropping and horticulture (including sugarcane production) on five hectares or more, you may need a permit before any work takes place. Permits are required unless the land has already been cropped in three out of the last 10 years.

Provided the land has a cropping history, a permit is not required to change crop type.

## Lower priority for compliance

Sugarcane growers who are accredited under CANEGROWERS' Smartcane Best Management Practice program will be the lowest priority for compliance inspections.

Growers who participate in acknowledged practice change projects such as a Complete Nutrient Management Planning project will be considered a lower priority for compliance while they are actively involved in the project.

To be treated as a lower priority, programs provide the Queensland Government with some basic property details—this does not include information about farming practices. This information is stored on a secure site that is only accessible to authorised Queensland Government officers.

## Timeframes

Record keeping requirements	Minimum practice agricultural standards	Farm nitrogen and phosphorus budget	New or expanded cropping activities
<b>Region: Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday and Wet Tropics</b>			
1 December 2019	1 December 2019	1 December 2021	1 June 2021
<b>Region: Burnett Mary and Fitzroy</b>			
1 December 2019	1 December 2022	1 December 2022	1 June 2021
<b>Region: Cape York</b>			
N/A	N/A	N/A	1 June 2021

Where can I find more information?



**Web:** [www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations](http://www.qld.gov.au/ReefRegulations)

**Email:** [officeofthegbr@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:officeofthegbr@des.qld.gov.au)

**Telephone:** 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

