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COUNTRY

# NERP

## Tropical Ecosystems Hub



Australian Government

Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry





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## Program objectives & scope

The NERP aims to improve Australia's capacity to understand and respond to priority environmental concerns affecting national environmental assets.

NERP TE Hub is focused specifically on:

- The Great Barrier Reef and its catchments
- Tropical rainforests including the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area *and*
- The Torres Strait.



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## Approach: Team, Methods

- Institutions involved: JCU, CSIRO, AIMS, UQ, UWA, ANU, DEEDI, DERM
- Strategic areas:
  1. Understanding ecosystem condition and trend
  2. Understanding ecosystem function and cumulative pressures
  3. Building resilient tropical ecosystem
  4. Delivering an effective and efficient program
- 3.5 year research program
- \$25.8M





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## Outputs

World-class reports and web-based visualisations on:

- the state of key assets, identifying possible threats, the socio-economic values of the assets and cost-effective methods for longer term assessment;
- critical information on the condition, trends and projected futures of nationally threatened species such as marine turtles, dugongs, sharks and cassowaries;
- identification and quantification of the cumulative pressures on ecosystems; and
- options to assist decision makers to better manage threats that are critical to the future environmental, economic and social underpinning of Nth Qld.



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# Synergies

- **4.2 Negri: The chronic effects of pesticides and their persistence in tropical ecosystems**
- *1.6 Marshall: Socio and economic long term monitoring program*
- *4.1 Fabricius: Tracking coastal turbidity*
- *4.4 Pandolfi: Characterising cumulative impacts of stressors on the present and past biodiversity of the GBR*
- *4.5 Uthicke: Experimental and field investigations of combined water quality and climate effects on coral and other reef organisms*
- *7.4 Pressey: Conservation planning for changing coastal zone*
- *7.5 Stoeckl: Socio economic systems and resilience*
- 2 projects being brokered – Risk Assessment, Seagrass





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# End user engagement & delivery

- Knowledge brokering and communication arrangements still under development
- Science Leader appointed for each Hub – Peter Doherty, AIMS
- Steering Committee, Working Groups



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