

Jacky Jacky catchment water quality targets

Catchment profile

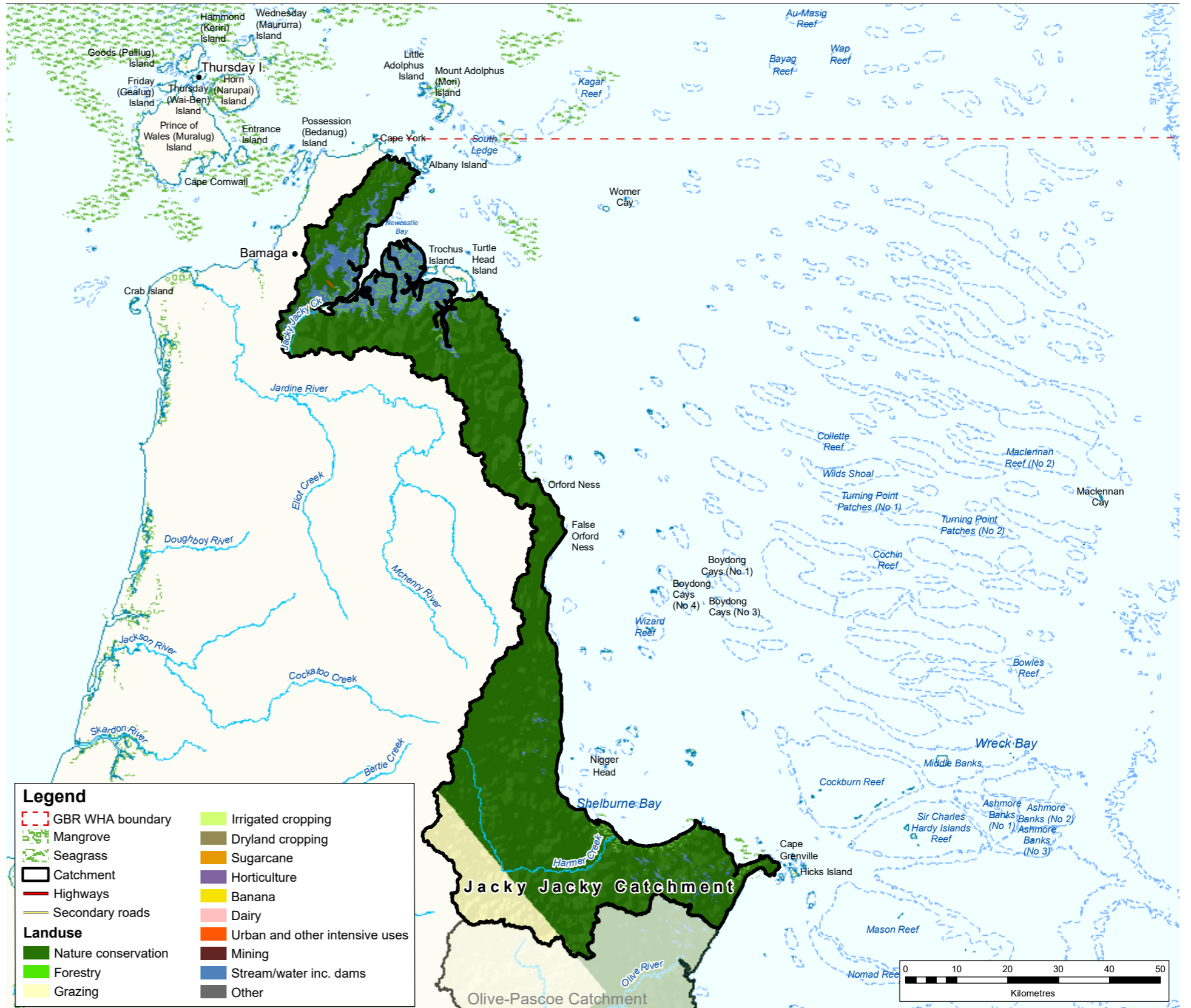
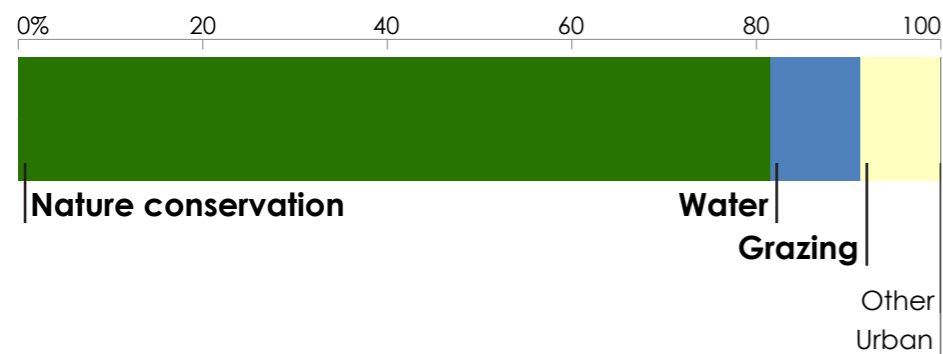
Under the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, water quality targets have been set for each catchment that drains to the Great Barrier Reef. These targets (given over the page) consider land use and pollutant loads from each catchment.

The Jacky Jacky catchment covers 2963 km² (7% of the Cape York region). Rainfall averages 1703 mm a year, which results in river discharges to the coast of about 2885 GL each year.

This is the most northerly catchment that discharges to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The catchment lies along the eastern coastal fringe of the Cape York Peninsula and has three main sub-catchments, Jacky Jacky Creek and Escape River in the north and Harmer Creek in the south. The remote catchment is principally used for nature and cultural conservation and has vast tracts of floodplains, heathlands, wetlands and estuaries. Only a small proportion of this pristine area is dedicated to agricultural and urban uses.

Land uses in the Jacky Jacky catchment

The main land uses are nature conservation (81%), water (9%), and grazing (8%).



2025 water quality targets and priorities

End-of-catchment anthropogenic load reductions required from 2013 baseline

Dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN)

Fine sediment

Particulate phosphorus (PP)

Particulate nitrogen (PN)

maintain current load

maintain current load

maintain current load

maintain current load

Pesticides

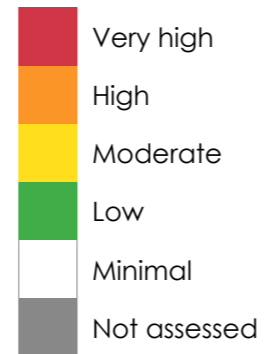
To protect at least
99%
of aquatic species at the end of catchment

The Jacky Jacky catchment has minimal anthropogenic pollutant loads. The aim is to maintain current water quality so that there are no increases in sediment or nutrient loads.

The 2025 targets aim to reduce the amounts of fine sediments, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and pesticides flowing to the reef. Each target for sediment and nutrients is expressed as: (a) the percentage load reduction required compared with the 2013 estimated load of each pollutant from the catchment; and (b) the load reductions required in tonnes. Progress made since 2013 will count towards these targets. [Previously reported](#) progress between 2009 and 2013 has already been accounted for when setting the targets. The pesticide target aims to ensure that concentrations of pesticides at the end of each catchment are low enough that 99% of aquatic species are protected. The targets are ecologically relevant for the Great Barrier Reef, and are necessary to ensure that broadscale land uses have no detrimental effect on the reef's health and resilience.

A high percentage reduction target may not necessarily mean it is the highest priority. The priorities (ranked by colour) reflect the relative risk assessment priorities for water quality improvement, based on an independent report, the [2017 Scientific Consensus Statement](#). The priorities reflect scientific assessment of the likely risks of pollutants damaging coastal and marine ecosystems.

Water quality relative priority



Cape York Natural Resource Management



Australian Government



Queensland Government