

Calliope catchment water quality targets

Catchment profile

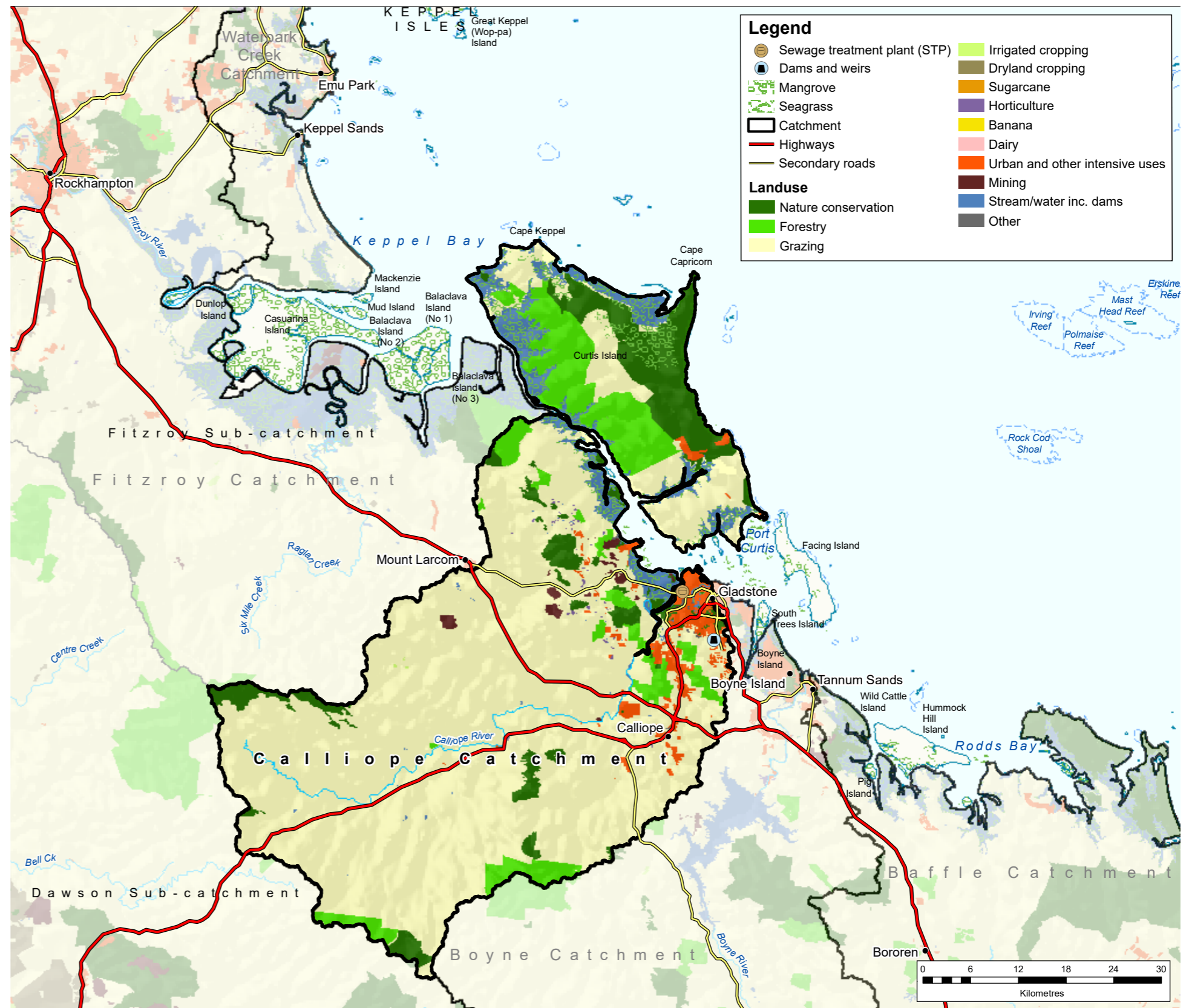
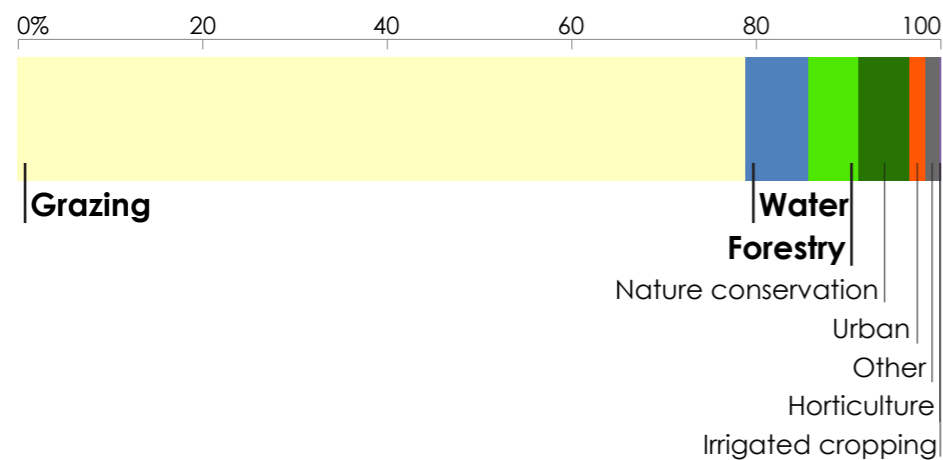
Under the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, water quality targets have been set for each catchment that drains to the Great Barrier Reef. These targets (given over the page) consider land use and pollutant loads from each catchment.

The Calliope catchment covers 2241 km² (1% of the Fitzroy region). Rainfall averages 837 mm a year, which results in river discharges to the coast of about 412 GL each year.

The Calliope catchment is a small southern coastal catchment of the Fitzroy region. It is located just south of the Tropic of Capricorn and discharges to the Port Curtis area and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Calliope River catchment comprises the main stem of the Calliope River and a number of creeks as tributaries, including Paddock Creek, Larcom Creek and Oaky Creek. The Calliope River joins the coast at the northern fringe of the city of Gladstone. A number of intermittent smaller creeks discharge directly to the coast north of the Calliope River, including Munduram, Mosquito and Sandy creeks. Land use is dominated by grazing, with very small amounts of horticulture. The coastal zone surrounding the city of Gladstone is an important industrial area that includes an international port facility within Port Curtis and a prominent heavy industrial strip.

Land uses in the Calliope catchment

The main land uses are grazing (79%), water (7%), and forestry (5%).



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)
0%	30%	30%	30%
0 tonnes	15 kilotonnes	54 tonnes	107 tonnes

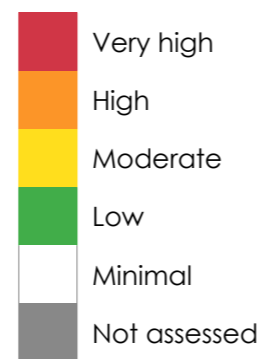
The 2025 targets aim to reduce the amounts of fine sediments, nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and pesticides flowing to the reef. Where there is a zero target, there are minimal anthropogenic pollutant loads. The aim for these pollutants is to maintain current water quality so there are no increases in loads. 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.

Pesticides

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

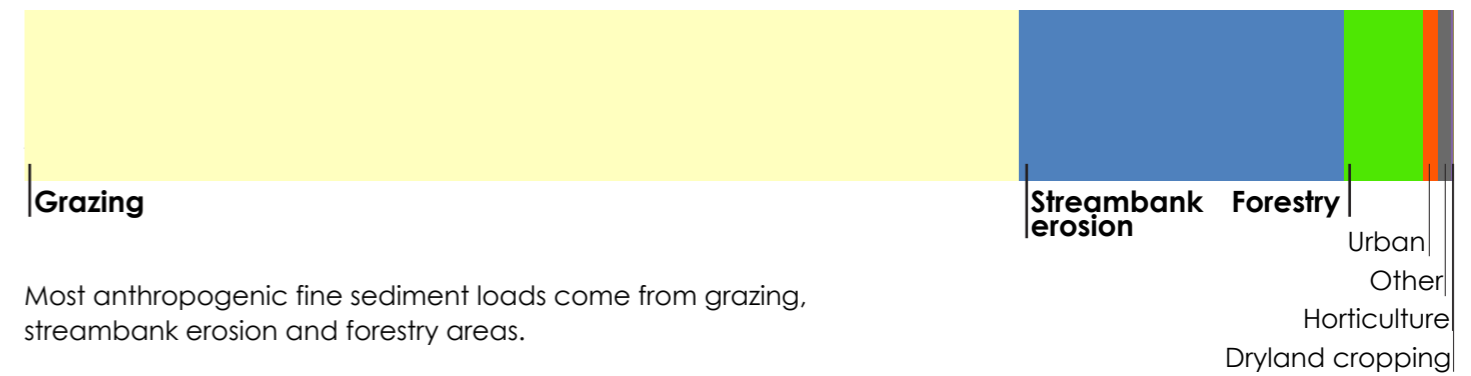
Water quality relative priority



Modelled water quality pollutant loads

The Calliope catchment has minimal loads of anthropogenic dissolved inorganic nitrogen and small loads of fine sediment.

Fine sediment



Most anthropogenic fine sediment loads come from grazing, streambank erosion and forestry areas.

Types of sediment erosion



Most sediment erosion comes from hillslopes and streambanks in the Calliope catchment.



Australian Government



Queensland Government