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CATCHMENT TO REEF JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAM

Task 6: New tools for assessing health, status and trends in nearshore marine ecosystems

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The proposed task extends research initiated in CRC Reef Project C2 (Terrestrial Runoff: Inputs and Impacts) through the development of new, more sensitive and cost-effective monitoring and ecosystem assessment tools to detect changes in nearshore marine water quality and ecosystem status related to water quality.

This research and assessment tool development will complement research on ecosystem function in and assessment of coastal watersheds and associated agricultural systems to reduce runoff of sediment and nutrients, and to monitor effects of land use practices on rivers, streams and freshwater ecosystems of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (Tasks 1-4). It will also closely collaborate with Task 7 (outreach to catchment users and the broader public), and has obvious natural links to Task 5 (Developing new tools for advanced water quality monitoring).


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