



Case Study

Controlled Traffic & Management of Fallow Crops

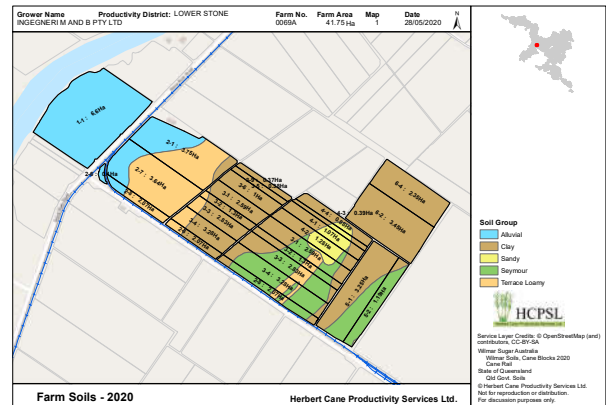


LANDHOLDER	Matt Ingegneri
LOCATION	Stone River
CATCHMENT	Lower Herbert
RAINFALL	1184mm
PROPERTY SIZE	133ha
ON-GROUND PROVIDER	HCPSL

Project Catalyst is a grower led, sugar cane innovation and adoption project that explores, develops and validates farm management practice change to improve the enduring water quality of the Great Barrier Reef.

BROADER ADOPTION VALIDATION & GROWER SUPPORT

Founded in 2009, the project operates in the Mackay Whitsunday, Burdekin and Wet Tropic regions to deliver valued practice change outcomes and develop methods for industry adoption. Under the Broader Adoption and Grower Support program, professional on-ground service providers assist selected growers to adopt and validate appropriate change practices. Service providers continue to monitor implementation benefits and derived environmental performance improvements. Through targeted extension activities, the program seeks to accelerate the uptake and broader adoption of improved farming practices at local, regional and industry levels.



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



●●●● Goal

To implement controlled traffic on the farms to have early access to blocks after the wet season. Try to grow a fallow crop on fallow ground.



●●●● Overview

Matt deals with soil types that are either very hard, dry and compacted or very wet with no structure. By implementing controlled traffic on his farm he should be able to get back onto cane blocks earlier than usual. Matt wants to try and grow a legume crop on his fallow ground for soil structure purposes.



●●●● Action

- Start zonal tillage of cane blocks instead of full cultivation.

●●●● Outcome

Matt deals with soil types that have poor soil structure so he applies his mud in third ratoon and then makes fertilizer deduction after. By applying mud zonally on the row he is able to get the trucks onto the paddock. The organic matter in the mud will help with soil structure. Matt had issues with getting access to a zonal cultivator but would like to try zonal tillage of his cane blocks so he can access the blocks earlier than normal after the wet season. Due to wet weather he was unable to plant a legume crop on his fallow ground as planned but will try again after harvest season 2021.