



# Case Study

## Is Petrix Helping to Release Locked up Phosphorus in the Soil?

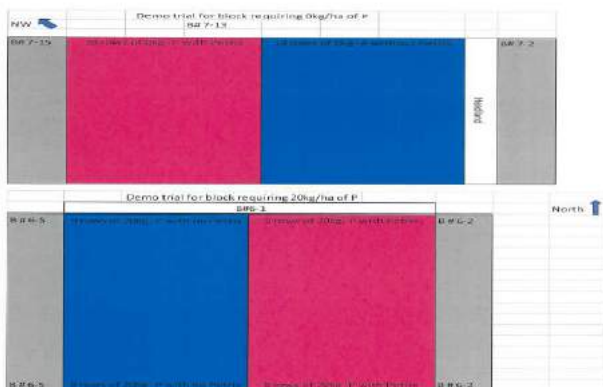


<b>LANDHOLDER</b>	Norm & Peter Reid
<b>LOCATION</b>	Pinnacle Hill, Ingham
<b>CATCHMENT</b>	Lower Herbert
<b>RAINFALL</b>	1943mm
<b>PROPERTY SIZE</b>	265ha
<b>ON-GROUND PROVIDER</b>	HCPSL

**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 find out if the product Petrix is unlocking organic phosphorus in the soil allowing Norm and Peter to use less in-organic phosphorus fertiliser.



## ●●●● Overview

Norm has been using the product on his farm for a few years now and has the feeling that he has not had to apply as much phosphorus fertiliser to his cane as he use too. Norm would like to know for certain if the product is working or is he just mining his soil profile of organic phosphorus to find that in a few years time will he have to start applying large amounts of phosphorus to his cane. Through leaf testing and comparing soil test results he is hoping to see some real evidence that the Petrix product is actually releasing locked up organic P and not just mining the P from the soil profile causing future problems.



## ●●●● Action

- Study soil testing as far back as 2011
- Choose blocks to compare against
- Set up two sets of demo trials, One block requiring 20kg/ha of P and one block requiring no P. Split the block in half and apply with P and P and NO P and Petrix then compare yield and soil tests at harvest 2021.
- Leaf testing in April 2021

## ●●●● Outcome

The demo trials have been set up and Phosphorus and Petrix applied according to demo trial designs. Leaf testing will be done on both demo blocks come April 2021 and then Harvest data and soil samples will be collected and compared after harvest season 2021.