



Australian Government



PO Box 104 Proserpine Qld 4800 P: 07 4945 0200 F: 07 4945 0222 E: [info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au) W: [www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au](http://www.whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au) ABN 63 291 580 128

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 27 FEBRUARY 2015

### Traps installed to reduce pollution flow to reef

Through the Australian Governments Reef Programme, Whitsunday Regional Council in partnership with Reef Catchments have installed three gross pollutant traps within the Cannonvale Botanic Gardens precinct to reduce the gross pollutant load entering Pioneer Bay and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Whitsunday Regional Council Mayor Jenny Whitney said Council is pleased to be involved in this great initiative which is helping to protect the Great Barrier Reef from pollution.

“The traps will stop rubbish and heavy metals contained in run off entering Pioneer Bay at Cannonvale Beach, improving the water quality flowing into the Great Barrier Reef,” she said.

“This initiative builds on Council’s commitment to reducing nutrients and sediment entering the marine park and follows Council’s recently completed upgrade of the Cannonvale Sewage Treatment Plant, which now meets the strictest environmental standards for outfall.

“Council has been working alongside Reef Catchments to install these three traps in the Cannonvale Botanic Gardens over the last couple of weeks and is pleased they will reduce gross pollutants by 93%,” she said.

Reef Catchments has provided funding for the project through the Australian Government’s Reef Programme, as well as on-ground support to facilitate the construction of the traps.

Mr Adam Folkers, Program Leader Land and Water at Reef Catchments, said the pollutant traps were part of a wider program to improve water quality and reduce the region’s environmental impact on the iconic Great Barrier Reef.

“The installation of the traps in Cannonvale will significantly reduce the level of sediment and nutrients (by 40% and 30% respectively) entering Pioneer Bay as well as capturing the vast majority of litter and other gross pollutants travelling within the three targeted waterways,” Mr Folkers said.

“Reef Catchments is proud to work with the Whitsunday Regional Council on this initiative to improve the condition of our region’s waterways.”

The gross pollutant traps are developed by Ecosol Waste Water Filtration Systems and are designed to reduce Gross Pollutants (up to 93% of materials sized >600um); Total Suspended Solids, Phosphorus; Nitrogen and Heavy Metals entering the receiving environment.

Ends

Follow Whitsunday Regional Council on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#)



For media enquiries, contact:

Kate Adams, Communications Manager

☎ 07 4945 0614, 0427 458 369 or Email: [kate.adams@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au](mailto:kate.adams@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au)

Jaime Newborn, Media Officer – Reef Catchments

☎ 07 4968 4213, 0438 726 226 or Email: [jaime.newborn@reefcatchments.com](mailto:jaime.newborn@reefcatchments.com)