



Cape York Natural Resource Management

ABCD Framework 2016

Grazing



CAPE YORK ABCD MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FRAMEWORK FOR WATER QUALITY

The ABCD Management Practice Framework was designed over 10 years ago to highlight and facilitate communication about the different levels, or standards, of management practice within the grazing industry, that relate to different levels of water quality (sediment).

The ABCD Management Practice Framework provides a definition of (and pathway to) improvement from Dated to Better Practices, through to Aspirational or 'cutting edge' practices.

It is important to specify the year of reference for any ABCD Management Practice Framework. Over time, changes in knowledge, technology, costs and market conditions may validate cutting-edge Aspirational practices so they eventually become industry endorsed best management practices within an ABCD Management Practice Framework.

A

ASPIRATIONAL

CUTTING EDGE and/or INNOVATIVE practices that require further validation to determine economic, environmental and social costs/benefits

B

BETTER PRACTICES

Industry endorsed best management practice

C

COMPLIANT

Minimum legislative requirement

D

DATED

Old and/or superseded practices

D | DATED

C | COMPLIANT

B | BETTER PRACTICES

A | ASPIRATIONAL

ABCD GRAZING SOIL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

PASTURE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Continuous high stocking rates

Property specific
No differentiation between grazing land types

Property specific
Independent management of less resilient grazing land types (as per Gully, Fire and Road management below)

Property specific
Independent management of less resilient grazing land types (as per Gully, Fire and Road management below) plus wet season spelling

GULLY MANAGEMENT

No gully management

No gully management

Cattle exclusion (periodic grazing for emergency feed) for less resilient gully prone grazing land types

Cattle exclusion and active gully management for less resilient gully prone grazing land types

FIRE MANAGEMENT

No fire management

No fire management

Fire management for less resilient grazing land types

Fire management for all land types

ROAD / FIREBREAK EROSION CONTROL

No road / firebreak erosion control

No road / firebreak erosion control

Road / firebreak erosion control for less resilient gully prone grazing land types

Road / firebreak erosion control for all grazing land types

WETLAND / RIPARIAN / FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

No independent management of wetland / riparian / floodplain grazing land types

No independent management of wetland / riparian / floodplain grazing land types

Independent management including annual spelling of wetland / riparian / floodplain grazing land types and active feral animal control

Cattle exclusion (periodic grazed for emergency feed) of wetland / riparian / floodplain grazing land types and active feral animal control





DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABCD GRAZING FRAMEWORK

A new grazing management framework for the Cape York region was developed as part of the Eastern Cape York Water Quality Improvement Plan. This new framework has been developed to better represent grazing management practices that are applicable in the Cape York region.

The development of regionally specific management practice frameworks began over 10 years ago in the Mackay-Whitsunday, Burnett-Mary, Burdekin, Wet Tropics and Fitzroy regions of Queensland. The development of a new grazing framework specifically for Cape York means that local management practices are better represented.

The framework is intended to support rather than duplicate Grazing BMP (Best Management Practice) processes and as a result does not present an exhaustive list of management practices. The main grazing management practices that influence water quality (sediment) are represented.

The grazing management practice framework is broken into categories: pasture management strategy; gully management; fire management; road and firebreak erosion control; wetland, riparian and floodplain management.

It can be used to support the development of property-specific action plans:

- through benchmarking current management practices used within properties, and
- by identifying management practices that could be adopted in specific sections of properties to improve water quality.

However, it is important to note that graziers have identified that there will be a need to adopt practices across several levels to successfully manage and operate their grazing enterprise on a year-to-year basis.



IMPROVED WATER QUALITY FOR CAPE YORK

The ABCD Management Practice Framework provides a common reference point for communication with water quality researchers, social scientists, economists, industry research and extension organisations, and land managers on:

- the level of water quality improvement that can be achieved through improved management practices
- the social and economic costs and benefits of adopting improved management practices
- the level of adoption of management practices required to achieve water quality targets
- the importance of detailed farm management planning and record keeping to achieving improved resource management, rather than a single technology or individual practice
- the type and scope of action such as Market Based Incentives (MBIs) required to achieve water quality targets.



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This project is supported by the Queensland Government Department of Natural Resources and Mines through the Queensland Regional Natural Resource Management Investment Program.