

ATHERTON TABLELANDS INTEGRATED COLLABORATION

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project partners: Sustainable Table and Queensland Reef Water Quality Program



SUSTAINABLE TABLE

Sustainable Table acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country across Australia. We honour the rich history, resilience and endless wisdom of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognise that our First Nations People were the original farmers and caretakers of these lands and that sovereignty has never been ceded. Always was and always will be, Aboriginal land.

Project Overview

The Atherton Tablelands Integrated Collaboration (ATIC) is a program being delivered by Sustainable Table to enable and scale regenerative agriculture opportunities within the Atherton Tablelands. The purpose is to improve, and enhance the landscape's biological vitality and improve the quality of water flowing to the Great Barrier Reef.

ATIC will facilitate a transition to regenerative agriculture practices, build a practical knowledge base and will be supported by the development of a regional food hub in Cairns, building economic security and food security in the region.

The Tablelands and Cairns region has a relatively active and progressive agricultural producer base that aligns with the principles of regeneration and contains several crop types across the region which serves the hospitality industry and regional economy. As at 2018/19, the Atherton Tablelands agricultural sector increased by approximately 45% in four years (since 2015). Horticulture was also the Tablelands' major agricultural sector and contributed \$528 million to the Tablelands economy in 2018/19.

Funding of \$1.5 million has been provided through the State Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program (QRWQP). The government's investment will be matched by an equal contribution from Sustainable Table's funding partners.

Moving at 'the speed of trust' is key in this region. Taking the time to build collaboration with the right partners, identify the true leaders and understand the complexities of the localised culture, is critical - this is what Sustainable Table does best. ATIC's cutting-edge approach will involve co-design with the local community; a grants program to identify interested stakeholders, potential opportunities and initiatives for implementation; and a funding program to enable and scale regenerative agricultural practices.



“This is one of the most potent initiatives in the country showcasing how regenerative agriculture and localised food systems can have far reaching ecological impact”

– Serenity Hill,
National Industry Advisor | Sustainable Table

Project Outcomes

- Improved water quality for the Great Barrier Reef, supporting achievement of reef water quality targets (QRWQP).
- A greatly strengthened knowledge (and resulting practice change) by land managers of their impact on the water quality of the reef.
- Germination of farm to market supply chain, including circularity in the region.
- Identification and funding stream directed towards the key levers in the system and keystone players that enable rapid change.
- Identification and scoping of areas ripe for replication and enhanced collaboration opportunity, for this place-based model.
- A Cairns community which has access to local seasonal food and enhanced food literacy.

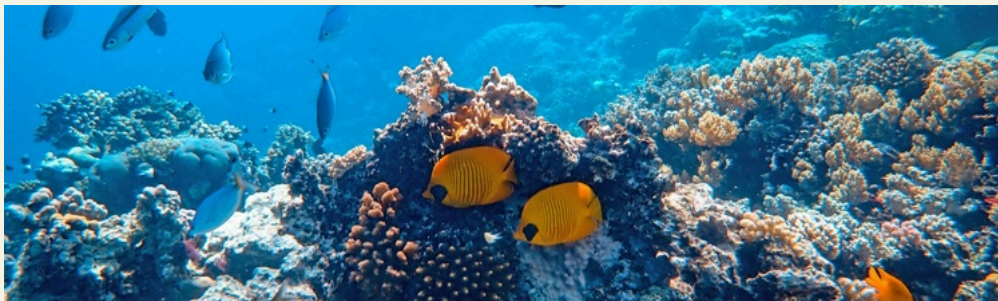


Agriculture and the Great Barrier Reef

Agriculture is a leading contributor to the climate crisis, it has disrupted the planet more than anything humans have ever done, including burning fossil fuels. Today, the majority of the food we eat is grown and produced in ways that are harmful to people and the planet, substantially impacting ecosystems and communities throughout the world.

What's clear is that we need to look at alternative methods of farming, methods that prioritise communities and our environment over yield (the amount of food grown) and profit. Enter, regenerative agriculture. In a nutshell, it's about growing food in harmony with the land and all the beings that call that land home (human and otherwise). It's about going beyond sustainability and living in reciprocity with our surroundings, giving back as much as we take. It's about restoring balance to ecosystems.

The Atherton Tablelands and Cairns region is a major agricultural region and has been identified as a priority area to transition to regenerative agriculture due to its close proximity to, and interacting relationship with, the fragile Great Barrier Reef system. With diverse food production sectors and an existing appetite for a regenerative approach, Sustainable Table has identified opportunities to support innovators in this region to thrive and lead the way for others to follow. This will result in improved land stewardship, water quality and a thriving regenerative culture.



Biodiversity and Ecological Significance of the Region

The ATIC geographic region is one of the most biodiverse and ecologically significant areas globally. The Atherton Tablelands farming region borders the oldest tropical rainforest ecosystems in the world. It is home to 'dinosaur' plant species that have a 180 million year old genetic heritage, including the oldest flowering plants.

The Great Barrier Reef connects to the Wet Tropics Rainforest that less than 200 years ago extended across the Atherton Tablelands. Both the Rainforest and the Reef are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites due to their outstanding significance in terms of the world's natural and Indigenous cultural heritage.

Water Quality Measures

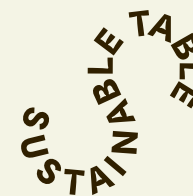
The Tablelands spans across 3 Great Barrier Reef (GBR) catchments and is primarily located in the Barron Catchment, extending into both the Herbert and Johnstone Catchments.

As per the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan 2017-2022 (WQIP), there are water quality targets for catchments that drain to the GBR to achieve by 2025. Collectively the water quality targets are aiming for 60-70% end of catchment reduction of DIN (dissolved inorganic nitrogen), and 30-40% end of catchment reduction of fine sediment, particulate phosphorus and particulate nitrogen.

Alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



ATIC Project Phases



The project is being undertaken across 4 key phases over 5 years (2023 - 2027);

Phase 1	Project Establishment and Design	COMPLETE
Phase 2	Industry Outreach and Delivery	IN PROGRESS
Phase 3	a. Farmer Funding Program b. Pilot Program - Create a local path to market	2025-2026
Phase 4	Regional Partnership and Legacy	2027

Phase 1 - Project Establishment and Design

Gather an in-depth understanding of the local context, opportunities, and blockages for regenerative agriculture in the region. An Implementation Plan will be developed to inform project phases 2-4 based on the outcomes and findings of Phase 1. Reporting indicators will also be developed to reflect the Project's influence on landholders to adopt regenerative practices, and in accordance with the QRWQP Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, and Improvement (MERI) Framework. A Communications Plan for project phases 2-4 will also be developed, based on the outcomes of Phase 1. [Phase 1 Summary](#).

Phase 2 - Industry Outreach and Delivery

Extensive consultation to get on the ground knowledge and practical insight into what does and doesn't work in the region while building relationships with and between industry players at all stages of the supply chain. With this insight a number of pilot projects will be created to enable the most relevant stakeholders and initiatives which are driving change, including First Nations projects. During this phase, the Project will also appoint industry advisors, deliver industry engagement, and assess blended capital funding models. [Phase 2 Update - 3 Pilot Projects Identified](#).

Phase 3A - Farmer Funding Program

Develop and deliver a funding program to support the stakeholders and initiatives shortlisted in Phase 2. The funding program will aim to facilitate rapid change to regenerative agriculture by amplifying the knowledge of farmers and growers, and providing support as required (i.e., machinery library, or water and wire funding etc.).

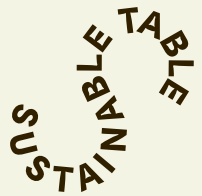
Phase 3B - Pilot Program - Creating a local path to market

Potential implementation of a 12-24-month pilot program to build a localised path to market to bridge the gap between regenerative agriculture practices and the hospitality industry market. If the Project determines the region is not ready for the Pilot Program, an alternative plan to progress project activities will be developed.

Phase 4 - Regional Partnership and Legacy

Will focus on legacy integration to ensure there is an ongoing impact beyond the life of the Project, including regional ownership with key local partners.

ATIC Funding Partner Opportunity



ATIC is a \$3 million project being delivered by Sustainable Table in partnership with the Queensland State Government - Office of the Great Barrier Reef. Funding of \$1.5 million has been provided through the Queensland Government’s Reef Water Quality Program. In addition to this, Sustainable Table is anticipated to provide \$500,000 of in-kind contributions across the life of ATIC.

Single and Multiyear Partners 2024 - 2026

Sustainable Table is now seeking single and/or multiyear funding partners to raise \$1.4 million, activating Phase 2 -4 of the project.

Join this important collaboration to transition regenerative agriculture in the region and improve water quality of the Great Barrier Reef.

STAGE	DESCRIPTION	FUNDS REQUIRED	ST Funding contribution being sought	CONFIRMED PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS*
Phase 1	Project Establishment and Design	July 2023	\$100,000	\$100,000
Phase 2	Industry Outreach and Delivery	August 2024	\$400,000	\$100,000
Phase 3A	a. Farmer Funding Program	August 2025	\$500,000	
Phase 3B	b. Pilot Program - A local path to market	August 2026	\$500,000	
Phase 4	Regional Partnership and Legacy	December 2027	NA	NA

*Funds raised as at June, 2024

Phases 2-3 Expense Breakdown

Phase 2 Industry Outreach and Delivery

Expenses

Expense Item	Expense Amount
Pilot 1: Logistics, Distribution and Infrastructure Sourcing	\$85,000
Pilot 2: Path to Market and Consumer Awareness	\$85,000
Pilot 3: Farmer Practice Change and Knowledge Sharing	\$75,000
Pilot 4: First Nations Consultation in Region	\$25,000
Administration, Communications, Project Management, Working Groups, Travel, Working Group, Project Advisors x 3	\$130,000

Phase 3A & B: Farmer Funding Program, A Local Path to Market Pilot Program

Expenses

Expense Item	Expense Amount
Discretionary funding round direct to industry of known organisations and initiatives	\$700,000
Open funding round direct to industry of yet unidentified organisations and initiatives	\$300,000

Partner with Sustainable Table

Sustainable Table offers philanthropists and impact investors an opportunity to fund projects that align with their values and vision for a thriving world. If you are interested in supporting the ATIC project and the urgent transformation needed across our food and farming systems, [get in touch](#).

[Jade Miles](#)
[ST CEO](#)

[Fiona Battershill](#)
[ST Partnerships Manager](#)



About Us

[Sustainable Table](#) is an environmental not for profit organisation regenerating food and farming in Australia from the ground up.

The majority of the food we eat is grown and produced in ways that are harmful to people and the planet. Agriculture is a leading contributor to the climate crisis and substantially impacts ecosystems and communities throughout the world.

Across the country, change makers are working on [regenerative](#) solutions to the social and environmental problems we face. Our team is working closely with these people to [fund their projects](#), foster collaboration and unlock impact for a thriving future.

Together, we can take action to enable resilient agricultural ecosystems, create thriving food and farming communities and reimagine economies.

Sustainable Table DGR1

Sustainable Table is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient, with DGR1 status.
Donations of \$2 or more to the Sustainable Table Fund are tax deductible in Australia.

How to Make a Donation

You can make a tax-deductible donation to Sustainable Table using the bank account details below:

Bendigo Bank
Account Name: Sustainable Table Limited
BSB 633 000
Account Number 199507880

Advice Disclaimer

The information provided in this document is meant for informational purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or offer. None of the opportunities listed here constitutes investment advice. Sustainable Table is not, and does not provide services as an investment advisor, investment analyst, broker, deal, market-maker, investment banker, or underwriter.

