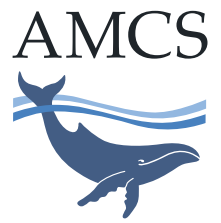


Poor water quality and our Great Barrier Reef

How agricultural runoff affects the Reef



Agricultural land

- Using too much fertiliser is not only wasteful and expensive, but the excess nutrients can make their way into waterways that flow to the reef
- Soil particles, or fine sediment are carried from fields into waterways by the wind or rain
- Agriculture is the main source of these pollutants

Waterways

- Waterways provide a pathway for these pollutants to reach the reef

Inshore Impacts

- Algal blooms caused by excess nutrients reduces light, hampering seagrass growth
- Algal blooms are a food source for coral eating Crown-of-Thorns starfish

Reef Impacts

- Heavy rain and flood events cause huge amounts of agricultural runoff to flow into the reef, damaging coral condition and reef fish populations.

