Collaboration & Partnerships

The NESP encourages a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to environmental and climate science research. Key to the success of the Hub will be the capacity to foster partnerships across Hubs and with a wide range of relevant research stakeholders.

The NESP TWQ Hub Administrator (RRRC) has an established track record of working collaboratively with other research programs and centres to maximise science output value. Negotiations are underway to ensure future collaboration of the NESP TWQ Hub research with the Northern Australia Environmental Resources, Marine Biodiversity and Threatened Species Recovery Hubs. As the NESP progresses, opportunities may also arise to collaborate with both the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub, and the Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub.

The NESP TWQ Hub partners have collaborated for nearly two decades, and have established an extensive network of research end-users across government, industry, NGO’s, Indigenous groups and other community groups. The creation of credible biophysical, social and economic information to policy makers, natural resource managers, industry, community and other scientists has been, and will be, one of the key success elements for the NESP TWQ Hub.

The six partner institutions of the NESP TWQ Hub are:

- Australian Institute of Marine Science
- James Cook University
- CSIRO
- Central Queensland University
- University of Queensland
- Griffith University
The National Environmental Science Programme (NESP) is a long-term, $142.5 million, commitment by the Australian Government to support environmental and climate research. The key objective of the NESP is to improve our understanding of Australia’s environment through collaborative research that delivers accessible results and informs decision making.

The focus of NESP is on practical and applied research that informs on-ground action that will yield measurable improvements to the environment.

The Programme will build on its predecessors – the National Environmental Research Program and the Australian Climate Change Science Programme – in securing for decision makers the best available information to support understanding, managing and conserving Australia’s environment.

The NESP is delivered through six multi disciplinary research Hubs or consortia, hosted by Australian research institutions.

The Tropical Water Quality (TWQ) Hub is researching water quality and coastal management focused on the Great Barrier Reef and other tropical waters with funding of $31.98 million through the Reef and Rainforest Research Centre, led by Dr Damien Burrows.

The NESP TWQ Hub is committed to a body of activity that includes short and long-term research projects. Each activity year the Department of the Environment will work with the Minister, the Hubs and other key stakeholders to identify and refine research priorities and develop projects that align with these priorities.

This research prioritisation is a rolling process and key milestones in each activity year, like the Annual Progress Report and submission of the next Research Plan, will inform the process. The Biennial Programme Evaluation, which will review the impact and success of the programme, also plays an important role in informing research priorities.

This constant consideration and evaluation of research output and impact will give confidence in the performance of the Hub and the effectiveness of the programme. It will also provide the basis for the flexibility needed in the NESP TWQ Hub to engage in new themes of research in an adaptive manner, ensuring the Hub’s focus is fixed on the delivery of relevant and practical research.

**Research Priorities**

The TWQ Hub will provide innovative research for practical solutions to maintain and improve tropical water quality from catchment to coast under three primary research themes, each of which has an experienced Program Leader:

**Theme 1:**
Improved understanding of the impacts, including cumulative impacts, and pressures on priority freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and species.

**Theme 2:**
Maximise the resilience of vulnerable species to the impacts of climate change and climate variability by reducing other pressures, including poor water quality.

**Theme 3:**
Natural resource management improvements based on sound understanding of the status and long-term trends of priority species and systems.