



# Growcom Reef Rescue

## Case Study Series

**CHEMICAL & PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT  
BURDEKIN DRY TROPICS NRM REGION**

**ANNA GEDDES**



# Reef Rescue - Horticulture

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- Located in the Bowen region, Maria & Neville Jones grow gourmet tomatoes on 200 hectares of sloping country and alluvial creek flats which drain into two major creek systems (Euri Creek & Sheepstation Creek)
- *“It is our intention to take an integrated farming systems approach to improve the targeting of all or fertilisers, sprays, plastic mulch etc by introducing GPS technology to be used in conjunction with our already improved, precision based spray applications”*

# Reef Rescue - Horticulture

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- Prior to receiving funding the farm's spraying equipment was inefficient in chemical application. The equipment used was of a very basic nature & did not have up to date technology for monitoring & controlling spray accuracy & drift.
- The new machinery has self centering booms with hydraulic adjustments, electrically controlled manifolds & spray controllers, allowing for low volume targeting, overall a more accurate delivery system.
- As we anticipated, this has made a vast improvement to the timing, accurate targeting & efficiency of the whole operation. We now feel more confident that the plant is receiving the spray, not the ground.

# Reef Rescue Project

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Neville Jones standing beside the Spra Coupe

# Reef Rescue Project

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The new machinery has self centring booms with hydraulic adjustments, electrically controlled manifolds & spray controllers, allowing for low volume targeting

# Adopted Practice

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- With this machinery, Mr Jones estimates a saving of 8 – 10% in chemical usage. It has also had a flow on effect with production. There has been a noticeable improvement in fruit quality, the result of accuracy in targeting the pests resulting in less fruit damage.
- With the second round of funding Mr & Mrs Jones applied for a GPS system. This was based on our recognition of the need to introduce integrated precision practices across the broad spectrum of the growing process.

# Photos

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Close up of GPS installed on tractor

# Photos

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GPS screen inside the tractor.



# Reef Rescue Experience

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- *“The introduction of the Reef Rescue grants has provided an important & timely opportunity for the farming & wider community to reflect & consider the impact that general practices could have on the reef.”*
- *“We feel that is has given us the opportunity to be more attuned to any changes that can be or should be made to improve the health of the environment generally, and the reef in particular. This in itself should have important ramifications as people become more aware what improvements are possible across our individual operations.”*
- *“Farmers generally are very aware & considerate of their environment & the need to conserve all that is good about it.”*

# Reef Rescue Experience

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- *“It is important also, that there is the recognition that the farming community can not always implement some of these improvements easily, due to lack of funds. Assistance with funding is vital.”*
- *“Overall the improvements that we have put into practice with both the GPS & the Spra Coupe have proved to be a great asset to both the efficiency & sustainability of our farming operations”*
- Maria and Neville Jones would like to express their thanks to the Reef Rescue Committee for their initiative in providing this funding to provide farmers with assistance to improve their farming practices which has far wider reaching benefits for the environment in the long term.

# Reef Rescue Project

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Tractor with the installed GPS being used in the paddock for farming operations.



Growcom is pleased to acknowledge and thank our funders and project partners in the delivery of the Caring for our Country Reef Rescue program



CARING FOR OUR COUNTRY

