

The role of community-based Hubs in reef restoration: Collaborative monitoring at Moore Reef

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The Cairns-Port Douglas region is home to multiple coral rehabilitation and stewardship projects supported by scientists, Traditional Owners, and a range of local stakeholders. The Cairns-Port Douglas Reef Hub has been a platform for collaboration across Traditional Owners, tourism operators, not-for-profits and scientists from the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (AIMS and CSIRO) to design and deliver a project at Moore Reef that assesses how new techniques for assisted coral recovery can be applied in rubble habitats. The collaborative project evaluates the viability of newly engineered coral seeding devices developed by AIMS, for deploying coral recruits that were spawned in the National Sea Simulator in December 2022 to sites at Moore Reef close to tourist pontoons. This project provides important data to inform future scaling up of restoration activities and provides a model for active involvement of a range of partners. Through this work, the project builds understanding around key ingredients for best-practice, place-based engagement opportunities for Reef communities and the general public.