



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 2018

Communique

The Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) met throughout the month of July 2018 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2018 – 2021 LMAC term. This table highlights items discussed at each meeting.

New term	<p>For the first meeting of the new term — all LMAC members and management partners received an introduction pack along with an overview presentation of the Authority. The updated Charter of operations was also presented.</p> <p>This term starts with 175 members cross the 12 committees — from Cooktown in the north, to Bundaberg in the south — with 65 new members signing up.</p> <p>Each committee voted in a Chair and Secretary for the new term.</p>
Cape York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in – Jessie Price-Declé • Secretary voted in — Alice Ganfield • Annan River catchment — There is a unique opportunity to conserve an entire catchment as the lands are almost exclusively in the hands of Traditional Owners, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and landholders who are committed to conservation. Partners are collaborating on a significant proposal to improve water quality for inshore reefs, by addressing issues such as weeds and gully erosion. For more information contact Christina: christina@capeyorkwaterpartnership.org • Damage to Eastern Cape York — Road improvements are providing unprecedented access to previously remote areas of eastern Cape York. Unfortunately many of the visitors do not respect the country and are damaging the environment by pushing through tracks, spreading weeds, overfishing, littering, tearing up salt marshes and polluting waterways. Traditional Owners and local governments are faced with the impossible task of trying to control the impacts and enforce compliance. The matter is compounded by the lack of tourism enterprises that would employ locals and create economic benefits. Members called for a local approach to fisheries management and a proactive response to the overall problem by government agencies before it gets worse. • Building respect for Country — The key role of educating visitors and residents to address threats to the Reef will be a focus of the Cape York LMAC over the coming term. The need to build strong respect for country and to change attitudes towards littering were of particular concern.
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Josh Gibson • Secretary voted in — to be confirmed





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding arrangements —The Great Barrier Reef Foundation funding arrangements were discussed, in particular governance and consultation processes. • Building community support - The Douglas region relies on tourism (80 per cent) and sugar (20 per cent) and both industries are under extreme pressure. The community must be resilient or it won't have an appetite to take action to help the Reef. The LMAC sees its role as helping the community work with the Authority to build resilience — of both the Reef and the community. • Low Isles Preservation Society (LIPS) —The committee supports an ongoing role for the LIPS in providing volunteers to assist in the management of Low Isles, particularly at present when there is no full-time caretaker on the island. • Discharging effluent at sea — While the overall impact of tourism vessels discharging effluent at sea may be less than land-based pollution, there may be localised impacts. This issue provides the tourism industry with an opportunity to step up and take a leadership role. All new vessels should be fitted out accordingly.
Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Ryan Donnelly • Secretary voted in — to be confirmed • Funding arrangements — Members discussed the pros and cons of Reef funding going to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. Members hope that duplication of resources will not occur. • Authority's governance arrangements — The committee discussed the new Authority governance arrangements, appointments to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Board and changes expected following the division of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chair roles. • Positive messaging — Members discussed the continuing negative impact of media portrayals that 'the Reef is dead'. More proactive media is required. Members would like to interconnect and share their social media strategies and networks (noting that one LMAC member alone carries 400,000 people to the Reef each year).
Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Cr Jeff Baines • Secretary voted in — Carmen Walker • Educational campaign at Kurrimine Beach — Up to 150 people a day have been walking over the reef flats at Kurrimine Beach during recent low tides. The activity was advertised in the media and promoted by accommodation providers. Walkers were not supervised and were seen picking up marine life and overturning rocks. Residents are very concerned about the environmental impacts and the need for an educational campaign. • Building resilience — Members noted the Reef is now a patient and needs to be managed accordingly. Ideas included a ban on taking herbivorous fish and a review/ possible reduction in the take of sea cucumbers. Crown-of-thorns starfish control in green zones and coral restoration around mooring sites are also needed.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovated seawall — An environmentally friendly rock wall near completion at Flying Fish Point is establishing a new benchmark for seawall design. The innovative approach by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council could be adopted widely given the growing number of seawalls protecting coastal towns in Queensland.
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in – Adam Royle • Secretary voted in – Renee Richards • Spreading the message - Members discussed how to get information from the LMAC to a broader audience and the role of the group as an advisory committee. • Upcoming event — Marine debris is a key issue for the LMAC. A plastic awareness and clean-up day was proposed. • Challenges faced by recreational fishers — Members are interested in the progress of the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy. They will look for a presentation on the review at future meetings.
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Vern Veitch • Secretary voted in – Gemma Molinaro • Climate change is considered to be a key challenge facing the Great Barrier Reef. Members discussed how the LMAC could take action, and in particular, improve communication about the issue. • Upcoming items to discuss — Marine debris and waste reduction were key issues identified by the LMAC. These issues will be the focus of the September meeting.
Bowen - Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in – Anne Smith • Secretary voted in — Lyn Orton • Installation of solar farms - There have been several proposals in the region for installations of solar farms. These would require the land to be cleared and minimal vegetation maintained. This potentially increases erosion and sediment run off. • Abandoned vessels - There are a significant number of abandoned vessels in the region.
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Olivia Brodhurst • Secretary voted in — Alysha Sozus • Dredging at Hay Point – Members discussed the proposed maintenance dredging for Hay Point (in Mackay) and the possible implications this will have on the water quality in the Whitsundays.
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in – Caitlin Davies • Secretary voted in – Nicki Stokes • Mackay boating and fishing brochure — There is a significant number of people fishing around the Newry Islands and being caught doing the wrong thing. The brochure the committee produced several years ago will be updated and reprinted with new key messaging, such as being pest free on the islands, the voluntary code of conduct being undertaken by the local recreational fishers and the Authority's Eye on the Reef app.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive messaging — Re-enforcing positive messaging about reducing single plastic usage will be further progressed.
Capricorn Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Bret Heath • Secretary voted in — Margaret Inglis • Funding arrangement - Members discussed the implementation of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation funding and how it may align with the LMAC objectives. • Derelict vessels — Concern over the increase of sunken vessels in the region will lead to further discussions with Maritime Safety Queensland about the derelict vessel removal project. • Raising awareness — Members would like to ensure whale season is communicated to the wider public, particularly Reef users, to minimise risk of incidents and increase awareness. • Upcoming items to discuss — Shark control program, plastic pollution, in particular micro plastics and those from geotextile bags will be discussed at future meetings.
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in — Karl French • Secretary voted in — Linda Fahle • RIMRep - Interest in the Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting program, in particular the seagrass report and the status of the expert theme group reports. • Update on moorings — noting the LMAC had been included in consultation. The LMAC discussed the location of moorings in the Capricorn Bunkers. • Upcoming events – Members identified participation in this year’s Sunfest. • Acknowledging the good work — Members noted the lack of debris at Facing Island in a recent clean up, and the release of the Australian Marine Debris Initiative app as a positive addition to marine debris work. • Upcoming item to discuss — Videoconferencing with other LMACs.
Burnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair voted in – Sue Sargent • Secretary voted in – Jim Buck • Analysing data – Members discussed the graphs provided in the Authority’s introduction (Australian Institute of Marine Science’s Long-term Marine Monitoring program graphs) and the trend for southern region versus other regions. • Funding arrangements — Members interested to find out more about the Great Barrier Reef Foundation funding. • Upcoming items to discuss — Crown-of-thorns starfish outbreaks and management; concern about use in Pancake Creek; public moorings installations; and feasibility of dredging at Round Hill Creek. • Upcoming events - Excitement over upcoming Reef-focused events such as the National Turtle Symposium, Reef Together and Ocean fest and looking forward to the engagement opportunities.

