



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 2019

Communique

The Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) met throughout the month of February 2019 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2018–2021 LMAC term. This table highlights items discussed at each meeting.

<p>Workshop of potential projects to address locally relevant Reef threats.</p>	<p>A representative from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation phoned in to each of the meetings and gave an overview of their Community reef restoration program stage two grants that are being offered to the Local Marine Advisory Committees. Each LMAC has the opportunity to have one project in their region funded up to the value of \$15,000. During the meeting, the members took part in a workshop that identified the priority local reef related threats, the resulting impacts and issues, actions required to reduce the threat, and potential local project/s to reduce the threat. They also identified partners that could deliver on the project. At the end of the workshop, the LMAC decided which one of the proposed projects they would pursue with and work with the relevant partners to apply for the grant.</p>
<p>Cape York</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting environmental responsibility: A busy tourist season is expected this dry season and members would like to see the tourism industry and government agencies promote environmentally responsible behavior to visitors before they arrive on Cape York. • Increased sediment runoff: Increasing development and road construction/poor road maintenance on Cape York is leading to sediment runoff and should be addressed through case studies and best management practices. • RIMReP Monitoring: Members are concerned that Cape York is considered a low priority in terms of reef catchment research and remediation funding and would like to know what monitoring from Cape York will be incorporated in Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program. <p>Next meeting: To be confirmed (May 2019)</p>
<p>Douglas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gillnet fishing: Widespread community concern about inshore gillnet fishing pressure resulting in declining local fish stocks. • Tackling threats to the Reef: Members have chosen a 'Reef Champions' video campaign to showcase the work of local champions who are tackling threats to the Reef through best practice farming, fishing, etc. as their preferred Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBRF) project proposal. • Water quality initiatives: Local canegrowers are recovering from intense weather events but continue to work on water quality initiatives including a stakeholder workshop on 23 February and waterway restoration projects. <p>Next meeting: 22 May 2019</p>
<p>Cairns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sediment impacts: The impacts of sediment from the recent monsoon event on the Reef and seagrass beds were discussed. • Water quality impacts: There is a need to address urban water quality





	<p>impacts. This could be a possible GBRF grant project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong interest in the threat of marine debris and local responses. <p>Next meeting: 21 May 2019</p>
Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridging the disconnect: Strong interest in bridging the disconnect between urban Australians/consumers and farmers/rural communities by promoting good practices (for instance by educating Reef Guides to share positive stories with Reef visitors). • Behavioural change workshop: LMAC is supportive of proposed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) marine debris behavioural change workshop in late May and encouraged involvement of interested business community/fast food representatives. • Environmental damage: Members raised problem behaviour at Kurrimine Beach by locals and visitors including unsafe and environmentally damaging driving on the beach and foreshore, large bonfires and parties - and lack of response from authorities. <p>Next meeting: 8 May 2019</p>
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential project: The committee identified that the issue of Leucaena plants at Lucinda as a possible GBRF grant project that will be explored further. • Development on Hinchinbrook Island: including the clean-up of the old resort and proposed eco-trail were discussed. • Beach clean-up: Options for the LMAC hosting or being involved in another Palms/Hinchinbrook island debris clean-up in 2019 are being explored further. <p>Next meeting: 23 May 2019</p>
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponed meeting: The Townsville meeting was postponed from Thursday 7 February until Thursday 21 February due to the severe weather event in Townsville. • Impact of the flood: was discussed in relation to the area and on the Reef. • Potential project: Addressing the issue of marine debris source reduction was an item that members thought should be addressed through the GBRF funding. • Guest speakers: Each meeting will continue to have a central theme with guest presenters on that particular topic. The theme for the next meeting will be, 'people and the Reef'. <p>Next meeting: 9 May 2019</p>
Bowen–Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fishers: Several of the Bowen commercial fisherman spoke to the members about their concerns about the viability of their jobs. They gave several reasons as to why people in their industry are suffering financially, including the legislative changes and the impacts of these changes. They are also concerned that compulsory VMS on boats may lead to a public sharing of their fishing locations. • Whitsunday Regional Council: The Council have introduced a Coastal Adaptation Hazard strategy as well as beach nourishment plans. • Abandoned vessels: Concern that insurance on many vessels is such





	<p>that when they are abandoned (for a variety of reasons), the salvage for these vessels is very expensive. It was suggested that second partner (such as Maritime Safety Queensland or Australian Maritime Safety Authority) be a second signatory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove replanting: As part of the development at Molongle Creek boat ramp, the community are wanting to plant mangroves in the area. They have not been able to get any information about where to purchase them and if there are any nurseries that propagate them. <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 1 May 2019</p>
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New members: The Whitsunday LMAC gained three new members. • Whitsundays Reef Recovery and Public Art Project: The members were given an update on this project. This included information about the art research at Langford Reef, the initial results of the social research, the public information package, the art itself (its footprint and where they will be installed), reef restoration research and the next steps. • Natural Disaster Recovery Program: Chris Dench and Olivia Brodhurst, from Reef Catchments gave a presentation about some of the works that have been conducted recently by Reef Catchments. They spoke about the water and waterway projects and the project goals of the Natural Disaster Recovery program. Four sites on the O'Connell River, one site at Bakers Creek, another at Oakey Creek were all part of stage one. Stage two includes six sites at Cherry Tree Creek, one site at O'Connell River, six sites on St Helens Creek, a site at Marion Creek and another at West Hill Creek. They also spoke about the paddock to reef integrated monitoring modelling and reporting program. • Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS): A lot of recent activity, including: the removal of all of the feral goats on St Bees Island; wallabies are being culled on some of the islands; crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) eradication patrols have been conducted mid/offshore in Mackay; back burning at Conway; Be Pest free campaign has a new brochure; most repairs from cyclone Debbie have been completed and interpretive signage is being developed for Whitehaven Beach. <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 14 May 2019</p>
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating and fishing brochure: This brochure has been updated. (The original brochure was an initiative of the Mackay LMAC many years ago). It complements the zoning map produced by the Authority as well as giving additional information about camping, moorings and best practises. • Letter of support: The members sent a letter of support to the Central Queensland Soil Health Systems for their Demonstration Cane Farms project. • Moorings – The proposed installation of approximately 10 new public moorings and reef protection markers was discussed and the members were encouraged to submit their suggestions of comments to QPWS by early March. • Marine debris audit: The Wild Mob Youth Ambassadors in conjunction with Tangaroa Blue conducted an audit on marine debris collected from the islands by Wild Mob. There were 75 x 130 litre bags and 55 x 75 litres bags equating to more than 1100kg of rubbish. The Youth Ambassadors used the event to educate the general public about the issues of marine debris. All this information was added to the Australian





	<p>Marine Debris Initiative.</p> <p>Next meeting: Wednesday 8 May 2019</p>
Capricorn Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Keppel Island (GKI) Rejuvenation Project: project update provided by the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development (DITID) and the Commonwealth Games to the members. • GBR Island decarbonisation project: Headline findings on the resort island program, the work underway with GKI and the synergies with the Rejuvenation Project provided by the Department of Environment and Science. • Central Queensland (CQ) Team Turtle presentation: This captured recent achievements of CQ Team Turtle in reducing direct threats to marine turtles, including the removal of a significant quantity of degraded long line rope (and associated rope fibres) that had washed up on a local beach. • Green zone and other compliance: Great Keppel Island: Members discussed the ongoing compliance issue and localised examples and it was suggested that an increase of local signage, and increased communication/education, may help reduce the issue. • Ross Creek Discovery Day: to be held on the 31 March from 8.30am at Ross Creek, Yeppoon. There will be a range of events and activities for all of the family including information sessions on local bat populations and the ecosystem services of mangroves, guided bird and mangrove tours, discussion on the 'Blue Carbon Credits'. • Capricorn Landcare Humpy Island weed clean up: members received a brief update on the great work completed by the Capricorn Coast Landcare and partners e.g. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) in tackling weeds on Humpy Island. <p>Next meeting: 16 May 2019</p>
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harbour Watch. Members received a presentation on the program. Highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluation of the program shows an increase in citizen science and engagement with the program. ○ Accessibility via the My Water Portal can be accessed at: riverhealth.org.au. ○ Schools can access downloadable data. ○ Presentation to the Australian Citizen Science Association Conference: 7-9 Feb in Adelaide. Presented to over 400 people. Now members of the Queensland chapter. ○ Community Events: Brisbane World Science Festival. Boyne River Catchment Crawls. Gladstone Harbour Water Quality and Industry Barge Tour. Reef Blitz community day. Teacher Professional Development day to Rat Island. ○ Water Sampling Field Guide: Has been developed using Gladstone Healthy Harbours Partnership parameters. • Central Queensland (CQ) University Coastal and Marine Research Centre presentation: An overview of the new research centre which will include five new research staff, community involvement in identifying gaps in research. Move in by November to new facility on Alf O'Rourke Drive. <p>Next meeting: 15 May 2019</p>





Burnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lady Musgrave Island: The Burnett LMAC discussed the management of multiple reef uses at Lady Musgrave Island, noting members comparison of the size, and numbers of, larger fish between Lady Musgrave Island and nearby Hoskyn Island (green zone) and the need to provide for tourism, diving and recreational fishers. Concerns were raised about the disused pontoon and other equipment which send a poor message about 'caring for the GBR' and are a hazard to marine life. The Authority informed this matter was being investigated. Some members also noted a perceived drop in crown-of-thorns starfish levels within the lagoon, although anecdotally there are more on the reef flat than usual.• The Great Sandy Marine Park Review: is currently underway, and committee members recently had an opportunity to meet out-of-session with Department of Environment and Science. It was proposed by the committee Chair that the LMAC prepare a submission, and also that individual organisations also develop submissions to the Department based on their respective interests.• Crown-of-thorns starfish: The Burnett LMAC has a continued interest in crown-of-thorns starfish management and research and would welcome a future presentation regarding current research findings on larval predation, linkages to nutrient blooms etc. and mechanisms to disrupt population blooms e.g. increasing numbers of natural predators/triton (other than through the crown-of-thorns starfish program).• Next meeting: 14 May 2019
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