



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Chairs' Meeting – 27 and 28 October 2018 - Townsville

Communique

Senior Authority staff and Chairs and Secretaries of the 12 Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMAC) met in Townsville on 27 and 28 October 2018 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2018-2021 LMAC term.

The two-day meeting is held twice every LMAC term (three years) and provides an opportunity for networking across the LMACs as well as with Authority staff.

Welcome

Bruce Elliot, Acting Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) Chairman, welcomed attendees to the meeting and paid respects to the Wulgurukaba and Bindal Traditional Owners and acknowledged their traditional lands and sea country.

He also introduced the meeting facilitator and trainer, Ian Plowman from Cooperative Conversations.

Training Session – Cooperative Conversations

Ian Plowman worked through a suite of techniques for improving the fun, engagement and quality of running a meeting. Training sessions included designing a meeting, defining agendas, time management, idea generation and decision making and other techniques to radically change the way LMAC meetings could be conducted.

Agency overview

As the Marine Park Authority Chair, Russell Reichelt was travelling overseas, the attendees watched a short video message from Russell noting his ending tenure as the Chair and his appreciation of the work LMACs do. Russell elaborated by saying LMACs provide an important conduit to represent the diversity of interests that exist across the catchment and we appreciate hearing these varied views. The advice LMACs provide helps the Authority keep in touch with catchment communities and

local issues. Community engagement is pivotal if we are to achieve the vision of, 'A healthy Great Barrier Reef for Future Generations'. Russell encouraged LMACs to continue to be a voice for their communities, but equally to work with the Authority to help educate and inform people throughout the Reef region about the work being done and actions that can be taken to protect the Reef. He thanked LMACs for their commitment and dedication to improving the Reef.

Acting Chairman, Bruce Elliot stated the achievements and upcoming actions for the Authority. These include:

- Record nominations for the new LMAC term – 170 nominations
- An expanded Authority Board
- Managing for resilience – continuation of work with all three layers of government, industry and community partners to jointly deliver the Blueprint for Resilience which captures ten initiatives that guide our work
- Delivery against the Marine Park Act, the Blueprint and Reef 2050 plan - the Authority has focussed its work around four key non-corporate areas through which it will deliver outcomes for the Reef moving forward
- Increased funding for crown-of-thorns starfish (COTs) control program and Field Management
- Increased capacity as part of the funding being provided to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

As General Manager for the Reef Strategy Branch, Margaret Johnson spoke about outcomes for 2018–19. These include:

- Producing an Outlook Report by June 2019
- Working with partners on the review of the Reef 2050 Plan



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- Transitioning to new governance arrangements
- Maintaining our reputation as leaders in international coral reef management
- Developing a knowledge system that enables resilience-based management of the Great Barrier Reef and tracks progress of the Reef 2050 Plan.
- Transforming Marine Park planning and the regulatory framework
- Modernising our approach to risk management of the Marine Park
- Doubling the Reef Joint Field Management Program with Queensland through a boost of ongoing funding

Bruce Elliot in his role as General Manager for Reef Engagement Branch talked about the activities and achievements, including:

- Close working relationships with Queensland Fisheries on the Queensland Sustainable Fishing Strategy
- Relocation of the Authority's head office in Townsville
- Developing new training via the Reef Discovery Course and the Master Reef Guide Program
- Reef HQ successful breeding program and achieving world leader recognition in captive animal husbandry
- Reaching 5000 visitors to Reef HQ and another 400 through outreach programs using video conferencing technology
- New grants program encouraging collaboration between schools, councils and community and linked to the Reef 2050 Plan and Blueprint
- New modern and up-to-date website
- International Year of the Reef campaign – encouraging everyone to #LovetheReef
- Douglas Shoal remediation project – signed contract
- New regulations and online permissions application system and reduced permit decision timeframes
- Participated in Talisman Sabre 2017
- Decisions made on 387 joint Marine Park permits
- New Traditional Owner partnership – accredited Mandubarra TUMRA along with a prepared Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Strategy
- Secretarial support for Indigenous Reef Advisory Committee
- New policy – guidelines for restoration and adaptation activities prepared
- Participation in Reef Restoration Adaptation Program
- Sea, aerial and land base patrols
- 249 days at sea on Reef Ranger
- Increased in water surveys monitoring COTs
- Increase in dedicated compliance vessel days.
- 42 court prosecutions.

The priorities and outcomes for 2018–19 from the Reef Protection Branch were highlighted by General Manager Simon Banks. These included:





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Reflections from past Chairs and Secretaries

Past Chairs and Secretaries gave an overview of their experiences in those roles. Sue Sargent, Chair from Burnett LMAC, Ryan Donnelly, Chair from Cairns LMAC, Nicki Stokes, Secretary from Mackay LMAC and Carmen Walker, Secretary from Cassowary Coast LMAC provided valuable insights as to what works and what doesn't.

Promoting your LMAC

Karen Markwort, Director for Communications and Education gave some quick pointers on managing media for LMACs, raising the profile, championing Reef protection and responding to questions. Further Media training will be provided to LMACs during this term.

LMAC Chairs reports

Chairs and secretaries from each of the 12 LMACs gave a presentation on activities undertaken by their committee members as well as priority issues in the region.

Cape York – Issues include: increased visitor numbers to the region which is placing pressures on the environment and infrastructure, overfishing, littering and 4WDing. Future goals include: engaging young people, mentoring program through the Authority, state agencies and holding a Junior Rangers Summit and speed networking event.

Douglas - New opportunities include: a funding commitment to reduce wrecks and vehicles on beaches, redevelopment of Port Douglas Marina with a new educational hub for visitors, sale of Mossman Mill and the opportunity to make a green transformation to renewables and reconnecting community with the Reef using Lowe Isles restoration project.

Cairns – They have had presentations on Reef Restoration and keeping islands pest free. They are continuing to work on the Cairns Port Dredging and

Shipping development and revealing the benefits of the net free zones through the Queensland Fishing Strategy.

Cassowary Coast – There is a strong community engagement with schools and local council which have made beach clean-up events a success. Information talks on being pest free and walking on the Reef at low tide have received great support. LMAC Facebook is assisting with messages to our members.

Hinchinbrook – Three new members have joined along with a new Chair who is involved in the local fisheries group. Will continue to contribute to Hinchinbrook Coastal Lagoon Fish Tagging and Monitoring program and pushing for data to be fed into the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP). Work is being arranged to clean up abandoned vessels and hundreds of ghost pots have been picked up.

Townsville – 60–70% new membership this term. Will continue to work closely with Reef Guardian Schools around beach clean ups and running meetings based on a theme basis. Challenges include: getting messages into the community and the expansion program of the Townsville Port with increased dredging and shipping channel.

Bowen-Burdekin – Looking at new technology to reduce the need for travelling between Bowen and Ayr for meetings. The Burdekin Reef Fest and Bowen Low Tide walk were both successful in raising awareness and educating community. Big concerns with increasing solar farms and land being clearing in the region and potential run off.

Whitsunday — New members include representatives from the regional Council, Traditional Owner and the islands. Focus will include cyclone Reef recovery around Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) projects and a future Shark Awareness presentation. They have contributed to the Authority's Marine Debris statement and have written a letter of concern on management of



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scalloped hammerhead shark and the Hay Point maintenance dredging.

Mackay – New member representation from industry, sugar, producers and council. They will continue to support schools and focus on engagement opportunities through Reef Guardian grant projects.

Capricorn Coast – Will continue to have a strong collaboration with Traditional Owners. Their focus will include the three top Authority issues around climate change impacts, marine debris and fisheries along with the Capricorn Coast top issues of Great Keppel Island and overharvesting.

Gladstone – We are recognised in the community as the “go-to-people” with media for all things Reef. Strong links with citizen science projects and local events. Issues include fisheries compliance and coastal infrastructure development.

Burnett – Issues include: coastal development, source reduction of plastics and protecting Pancake Creek. Lots of engagement around Ocean Fest 2018, Reef Together and the Australian Marine Turtle symposium.

State of the Reef

Director of the Outlook Report, Jessica Hoey gave an overview on how the Reef is doing, highlighting extreme weather patterns, poor water quality impacts, shifting baselines and recovering populations of marine species. Intervention and restoration is producing some great growth outcomes. Jessica reminded everyone that the Outlook Report is not written with recommendations. It is only the Reef's current state and we want everyone to ask themselves “what can they do to help it”?

Great Barrier Reef Foundation (GBR)

Margaret Johnson delivered an update on the Reef Trust Partnership on behalf of the Great Barrier Reef

Foundation. There is a strong focus on innovation in both delivery models and outcomes and as part of the Governance Framework, the Authority will be involved in working groups. The GBR Foundation will present at upcoming LMAC meetings outlining further updates. It is important that we focus on what is going to come from this investment.

RIMReP update

An overview of the Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program (RIMReP) was presented by Roger Beeden, Director of Reef Knowledge. Understanding the critical linkages of the Great Barrier Reef's massive diverse system is important for management needs. Developing the program is a massive undertaking involving experts, collection of data, delivering information and providing managers with a comprehensive understanding of how the Reef 2050 Plan is progressing.

Reef Guardian Grants

Megan Connell, Assistant Director for Stewardship explained the Authority's small grants program encompassing Stewardship, Community and Research grants. Grant recipient's approved projects will be shared via the Authority's website and the Authority is looking to add Sea Country grants along with implementing a two part application process which is still under review, in the future. The Authority will be requesting recommendations from the LMACs as to what future projects could come from their regions.

LMAC strategic priorities

Karen Markwort set the scene in highlighting the LMAC objectives and future items for LMAC agendas. LMAC play an important role in promoting the exchange of information and providing advice to the Authority. We



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need to continue to encourage and empower communities to take action. In order to sharpen our focus, Fred Nucifora, Director Reef Stewardship offered two new acronyms – KLAP (Knowledge, Leadership, Action and Partnerships) and CLAS (Care, Learn, Act and Share) as foundational stones to narrow our focus and build upon the stewardship actions coming through from these actions.

LMAC Representation at Reef 2050 Advisory Committee

As the LMAC representative on the Reef 2050 Advisory Committee, Sue Sargent spoke about her involvement over the last three years. We will be providing succession planning. LMAC members were encouraged to apply to be the proxy for this role.

Reef Recovery and Adaption Program

Assoc. Professor Karen Vella and Dr Maxine Newlands gave an update on the Reef Recovery and Adaption

Program. To date, stakeholder interviews have taken place around perceptions of risks and benefits. They are currently looking at new science and engineering opportunities. They have been rewarded funding to model and conduct tests but still need to gain further feedback on how they can engage better with community and gain a better understanding of what people think of large scale restoration technologies.

Field Management update

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's Principal Ranger, Dan Schaper spoke about the achievements of the Joint Field Management program, administered by the Marine Park Authority in cooperation with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services.

They included: current conservation actions, Reef health checks, responding to risks through mitigation, upholding compliance, enhanced reporting and key investments.



LMAC members

Alice Taylor	Cape York LMAC
Jessie Price-Declé	Cape York LMAC
Robert Hanan	Douglas LMAC
Josh Gibson	Douglas LMAC
Ryan Donnelly	Cairns LMAC
Jim Newman	Cairns LMAC
Jeff Baines	Cassowary Coast LMAC
Carmen Walker	Cassowary Coast LMAC
Michael Nash	Hinchinbrook LMAC
Renee Richards	Hinchinbrook LMAC
Vern Veitch	Townsville LMAC
Gemma Molinaro	Townsville LMAC
Anne Smith	Bowen/Burdekin LMAC
Olivia Brodhurst	Whitsunday LMAC
Alysha Sozou	Whitsunday LMAC
Caitlin Davies	Mackay LMAC
Nicki Stokes	Mackay LMAC
Bret Heath	Capricorn Coast LMAC
Maggie Inglis	Capricorn Coast LMAC
Karl French	Gladstone LMAC
Daniel Aesclimann	Gladstone LMAC
Sue Sargent	Burnett LMAC
Mike Middelton	Burnett LMAC

Management partners

Simon Banks	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Bruce Elliott	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Margaret Johnson	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Roger Beeden	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Shaun Barclay	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Darren Cameron	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Kim Corrie	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Kirstin Dobbs	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Althea Harding	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Jessica Hoey	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Belinda Jago	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Anne Leo	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Karen Markwort	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Fred Nucifora	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Adrienne Power	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Rebecca Allen	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Dannielle Kuhn	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Doon McColl	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Carolyn Thompson	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Kate Finch	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Dan Schaper	National Parks Recreation Sport and Racing

Facilitator and trainer

Ian Plowman	Cooperative Conversations
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