



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 2018

Communique

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

Crown-of-thorns (COTS) presentation	Most of the LMACs were provided a power point presentation with a voice over from Dr Mary Bonin Assistant Director, Reef Interventions. It included some background information to provide context to the current COTS control program extension. It also provided some regional information on what has happened to date as well as what is being planned.
LMAC Chairs' meeting	The LMAC Chairs' meeting will be held in Townsville on 27 & 28 October. Part of the meeting will be used as a training session for LMAC Chairs and Secretaries. The training will clarify their roles and responsibilities. If the Chair and Secretary is unavailable then a proxy will attend in their place. Most of the LMACs discussed what information their LMAC will be presenting at the meeting.
Cape York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable behaviour amongst recreational fishers: Members discussed the need to act now to instil sustainable behaviour among the growing number of recreational fishers who are visiting Cape York. The LMAC discussed surveying tourists and residents to find out more about the type of fishing they are undertaking and their expectations. • Crown-of-thorns: After viewing a crown-of-thorns starfish presentation, members asked for a list of reefs of interest off Cape York that they can monitor on an ongoing basis. • Engaging Youth: Members discussed the importance of working with young people who are central to a positive future for Cape York. Options included expanding the Cape York Film School to Lockhart River, a Junior Rangers Summit, and a 'speed networking' event with employers such as Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, and offering mentoring by LMAC members and management partners. • Field Trip: Members are keen to travel to Lockhart River to learn about local issues of concern to the community. • Next meeting: tbc
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Restoration Presentation: The committee hosted a Reef Restoration presentation which was well attended by Port Douglas residents and visitors. • Abandoned Wrecks: Members are delighted that after years of lobbying, abandoned and wrecked vessels are being addressed by the Queensland Government. LMAC member Mayor Julia Leu is the deputy chair of the state taskforce and the next meeting will be in Port Douglas on 28 September. • Vehicles on beaches: The committee has drafted a submission on the Douglas Shire Council's proposed policy for managing vehicles on beaches. This is another longstanding problem which has been





	<p>championed by the LMAC and members were pleased to see progress on the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Isles Preservation Society: The committee supported Low Isles Preservation Society's request to improve communication with GBRMPA. Low Isles Preservation Society expressed interest in undertaking coral restoration at Low Isles and utilising the former research station. The committee expressed strong support for using Low Isles as a focal point to connect the local community with the Reef and issues affecting it. Authority staff agreed to coordinate a meeting with representatives from Low Isles Preservation Society, the LMAC, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and new island caretakers. Authority staff agreed to coordinate a meeting with representatives from Low Isles Preservation Society, the LMAC, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services and new island caretakers. • Unsustainable fishing practices: This issue was raised, with a particular focus on netting grey mackerel spawning aggregations off Snapper Island and netting of inlets and rivers along the Douglas coastline. Members agreed this was a priority issue for the LMAC and requested for a fisheries presentation/roundtable with relevant experts. • Vessel sewage discharge: Pump ashore facilities for vessel sewage discharge noting the current marina upgrade. • Next meeting: Tuesday 13 November.
Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Restoration Presentation: Over 40 members of the public joined LMAC members for a Reef Restoration presentation featuring guest speakers Belinda Jago (Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority), Peter Harrison (Southern Cross University), Katie Chartrand (James Cook University) and Stewart Christie (Reef Restoration Foundation). • Mission Beach boat infrastructure: Conservation sector members were disappointed by the Authority's approval process for boating infrastructure at Mission Beach, and subsequent responses. They questioned how the Authority is addressing cumulative impacts, and managing the World Heritage area's Outstanding Universal Value and aesthetic values. • Keeping islands pest free: Following a presentation on keeping islands pest-free, members noted that biosecurity was not addressed in the Reef 2050 Plan, an issue which should be rectified in the upcoming plan review. • Marine Debris Position Statement: In regard to the draft Marine Debris Position Statement, members raised the issue that it was illegal to remove derelict crab pots - which then became death traps for wildlife. A change in legislation is needed. • Networking function: The importance of the LMACs' networking function should be recognised in the Authority's strategic plan for the committees. Many outcomes are achieved through partnerships that develop around the table. • Next meeting: Tuesday 20 November.





Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping islands pest free: Following the committee’s decision to hold community awareness meetings throughout the Cassowary Coast, the LMAC hosted a public talk at Kurrimine Beach on ‘Keeping Islands Pest Free’ by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services ranger Chris Maple. More than 40 people attended and a range of local issues were raised including: the local impact of visiting gill netters on commercial line fishers and recreational fishers including tourists; a marked increase in shark numbers affecting catches; the lack of funding for farmers to repair waterways damaged by floods; and the need for better education of hundreds of Reef walkers coming to Kurrimine Beach during extreme low tide events. • Facebook account: The committee has requested to trial its own Facebook account as the communication platform of choice on the Cassowary Coast, particularly for the younger demographic. • Great Northern Clean up: The committee is planning to clean up the Mission Beach jetty and boat ramp area as part of the Great Northern Clean-Up. • Next meeting: Wednesday 14 November.
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping islands pest free: Members are keen to distribute information to local area. <i>Be Pest-Free when you visit the Great Barrier Reef</i> material will soon be provided to members to distribute via their respective channels. A presentation from the Queensland Department of Environment and Science on the Be Pest-Free program was provided to members. • Abandoned vessels: Abandoned fishing vessels and ghost pots are a concern of members. • Marine debris: Looking to partner with Tangaroa Blue on future marine debris clean up days. • Next meeting: Wednesday 21 November.
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine debris: Littering and marine debris are a key concern of the Townsville LMAC. The September meeting focused on this issue with presentations on a PhD study: <i>From People to Reefs: Finding solutions to reduce plastic in the Great Barrier Reef</i>, and the role of Department of Environment and Science in regulating waste and litter. • Action from members: leading by example, all members are identifying individual actions that they can take to reduce the impact of climate change and help the Reef. • Meeting focus: Climate change will be the focus of the November meeting. • Next meeting: Thursday 8 November.





Bowen - Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary: Lyn Orton was welcomed as the new LMAC secretary. • Reef Ecologic: members were given a presentation on the Whitsundays Reef recovery and Public Art project conducted by Reef Ecologic. The project involves the design, creation and installation of underwater and inter-tidal interpretive art pieces across the Whitsunday region, coral restoration and educational activities. The project is designed to support tourism in the region. • Media for the LMAC: it was agreed that making a media release after each meeting to inform the public about the LMAC would raise the profile of the LMAC and possibly increase the membership of the group. • Tree planting project: To support the refurbishment of the Bowen region due to damage from Tropical Cyclone Debbie, the LMAC have proposed to work with the Whitsunday Regional Council and Reef Guardian Schools to plant trees along some of the popular pathways. • Drones: The members raised concerns about the use of drones on public beaches. Although the practise is not illegal, the members are concerned about the issues of the drones being flown over people in highly populated areas. • Low Tide walk to Bowen Lighthouse: This event attracted over 3,000 people this year – the highest number recorded. The LMAC have agreed to hold a stall again next year and have members take part in the actual walk to educate the public about best practises when reef walking. • Next meeting: Wednesday 7 November.
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lend Lease: Michael Wright gave a presentation about the organisation and some of the community work that their staff do in regional communities. Lend Lease will be sending staff to the Whitsundays for the next two years to work with community on a variety of projects and the LMAC were encouraged to identify projects for them to be involved in. • Public Art installation: Reef Ecologic is conducting a research experiment exploring community and visitor attitudes toward art installations in the marine park. Located at Langford Reef, the installation researches the contributions of relevant public art to reef tourism, education and recovery for the Whitsunday region. The various artworks have been acquired to research the social and environmental impact and economic feasibility. • North Queensland Bulk Ports: the members were given an update about the maintenance dredging that is proposed for Hay Point Coal Terminal. The committee has submitted a letter. • Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services: The members were given an update regarding activities that have been conducted in the region including: Rapid Health Impact Surveys, restorations projects and





	<p>attendance at community days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitsunday Regional Council: The council have developed a variety of strategies including: Climate Change Mitigation and adaptation planning, Coastal Hazard Adaptation Plans, Bushfire Management and Erosion Management for Development Sites. Members requested council present more information on their climate strategies at the next meeting. Next meeting: Tuesday 13 November.
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance update: The members were given a presentation about improving recreational fishing compliance with Marine Park Zoning. This led to a discussion about the local region, in particular around the Newry Islands off Seaforth. Members suggested using good news stories in the media, signage on the roadside on the way to the boat ramp, marker buoys in the channel as potential methods to educate the public. • Island Projects: Reef Catchments have been involved in a variety of projects including: weed control on Goldsmith Island, supporting Eco Barge Clean seas with marine debris removal, turtle monitoring trips with Wildmob and conducting sea grass monitoring. • Long serving members: Nicki Stokes and John Eden were thanked for their contribution to the Mackay LMAC for the last 10 years. Les Todd was also thanked for his commitment and contribution to the Mackay LMAC for the last 15 years. • Next meeting: Wednesday 14 November.
Capricorn Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yeppoon Inlet Association: the Capricorn Coast LMAC applauded the ongoing work of the Yeppoon inlet association in removing derelict vessels and debris from Fig Tree and Ross Creeks. Recent activity includes removing a ~30 foot derelict yacht. • Capricorn Catchments Keppel Islands clean-up: the members were given a presentation on the recently completed Keppel Islands clean-up which was undertaken through partnership with a variety of local groups and through a Reef Guardian community grant. The participants removed more than 300kg, comprised of 4200 pieces, from four beaches on Keppel Island and sorted and analysed the debris collected. This information will be added to the Tangaroa Blue Australian Marine Debris Initiative database. • Green zones: the Capricorn Coast LMAC reflected on the importance and benefits of green zones in regards to crown-of-thorns starfish management after viewing the crown-of-thorns starfish presentation. • Putney Beach, Great Keppel Island and geotextile bags (in general): the group discussed the current state of erosion control measures on Putney Beach, compliance of this development and the need for monitoring, compliance and review of development approvals. The group also discussed the possible impacts, through the release of micro plastics, of using geotextile bags for erosion control in marine environments.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coral collection: the Capricorn Coast LMAC discussed commercial coral collection compliance, and permitting - in light of climate change and other pressures and the perceived lack of adjustment to the industry to reflect these additional pressures/impacts. Concerns were raised about the perceived influx of coral collectors in the Keppel Islands and the perceived impacts they are having. • Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan: concern was raised about the minimal referral to mining in the current R2050 plan. Community consultation during the next review process will be investigated. • Next meeting: Thursday 15 November.
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Restoration: The Gladstone LMAC hosted a public presentation: CSIRO's Recover of Reefs Using Industrial Techniques (RECRUIT) project. • LMAC planning: The Gladstone LMAC were pleased with the media coverage of the new term/chair and the Reef restoration project, and are keen to continue to raise the regional recognition of the LMAC, expand their network and particularly encourage younger members to join. A calendar of events for LMAC attendance is planned to link the LMAC closely to regional events. • Events: The Gladstone LMAC members shared information from and celebrated the recent variety of events attended by members, such as: Gladstone Future Leaders Eco Challenge, 4th National Turtle Symposium, Reef Together, marine strandings training. Upcoming events were discussed and will be included in the Gladstone LMAC events calendar. • Harbour Watch: The members heard about their funding to continue the program and citizen science activities. Harbour Watch continues to collaborate with other community and environmental organisations, such as Boyne Island Environmental Centre and Fitzroy Basin Association. • Regional projects and partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Gladstone LMAC heard an update on the Boyne Island Environmental Education Centre clown fish project. The breeding program aiming to reduce the amount of clown fish taken from the reef for aquarium use ○ The Gladstone LMAC is keen for LMAC's to be a part of the Great Barrier Reef Foundation communication and engagement, and regional projects planning • Compliance statistics: These were provided by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services, the Gladstone LMAC noting that forty three offences were detected from twenty six incidents in the April – June quarter. • Next meeting: Wednesday 14 November.





Burnett

- **Regional events:** The Burnett LMAC reflected on the exciting engagement events that had recently been held in the region –
 - Oceanfest, ~10,000 people attended, general community engaged on responsible reef practices and International Year of the Reef topics
 - 4th Australian Marine Turtle Symposium - over 300 attendees from Queensland, interstate and overseas, and included representatives from numerous Traditional Owner groups. Over 3 days, a wide variety of information was presented by scientists, citizen scientists, community groups, traditional owners, government departments, and private organisations.
 - Reef Together - regional Reef Guardians schools convention. 200 students from 20 schools heard from key note speakers Andy Ridley, Peter Gash and Anthony Hill, workshoped and shared ideas and actions.
 - All 3 events were attended and supported by BLMAC members.
- **Sea Turtle Alliance:** Pull up banners and flyers developed to educate and motivate the community to minimise the use of single use plastic and reduce marine debris were showcased to the Burnett LMAC. The panels depict the values, threats and actions that can be taken.
- **Pancake Creek:** The significant environmental values and the management of the multiple uses of Pancake Creek (e.g. fishing, safe harbour, and snorkelling) were discussed. The Burnett LMAC agreed that the installation of public moorings a positive step but further management may be needed – pending further consideration of issues.
- **Compliance update:** Members were given a presentation about the quarterly compliance figures for April – June 2018. The Burnett LMAC agreed that further education and reporting of non-compliance was critical to improving the statistics.
- **Lady Musgrave Island:** Concerns were raised about the marine debris left when a salvage crew removed a sunken catamaran and possible fishing in the green zone at Lady Musgrave Island.
- **Round Hill Creek:** The Burnett LMAC discussed the feasibility study for bed levelling or dredging the Round Hill Creek channel.
- **Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services update:** Members were provided with an update from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services staff covering a wide range of subjects including the 'War on Wrecks' initiative, HMAS Tobruk dive site status and turtle stranding training.
- **Great Sandy Marine Park rezoning:** The Burnett LMAC will be keenly interested in participating in this process.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday 13 November.

