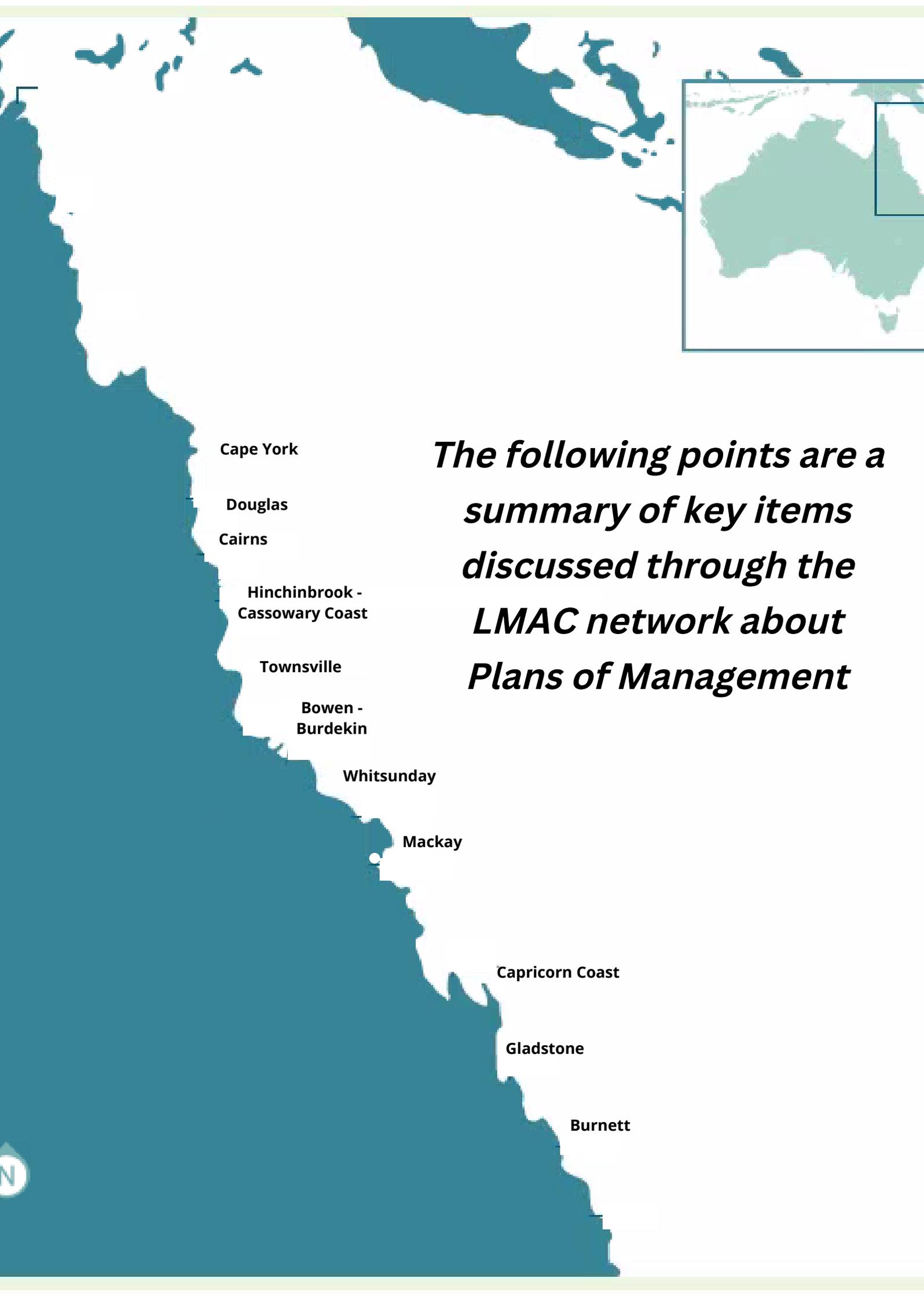




# LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2023





Cape York

Douglas

Cairns

Hinchinbrook -  
Cassowary Coast

Townsville

Bowen -  
Burdekin

Whitsunday

Mackay

Capricorn Coast

Gladstone

Burnett

*The following points are a  
summary of key items  
discussed through the  
LMAC network about  
Plans of Management*



**In November 2023, all 11 Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) were involved in discussions with the spatial planning team to inform the development of the new Southern Plan of Management. The aim of these meetings was to discuss current/new values, uses, threats and conflicts experienced in their areas of the Marine Park (southern LMACs only) and to deliver informed opinions on current management tools and how these may be improved.**

**The following is a summary of the information gathered from each LMAC to be considered as part of future Marine Park planning projects.**

**Common Great Barrier Reef wide LMAC themes:**

- Witnessing sewage discharge from vessels – concerns about the impact on water quality
- Non-permitted use of private moorings
- Current Marine Park management is confusing – users are unsure where to go to gather information on rules and regulations
- New management tools need to be flexible and easy to understand
- Non-compliance in Green zones
- Need to manage user capacity - capping usage in high use areas
- Light pollution from vessels and coast impacting marine life
- Increase in visitation from users who are not familiar with Marine Park rules/regulations (particularly SEQ visitors)
- Increase in recreational users
- Increase in presence of larger vessels and vessels with improved technologies
- Increase in boat traffic
- Increase in recreational fishing
- Concerns over commercial coral collection
- Call for an increase in education efforts



**The key themes raised by the Cape York LMAC were:**

- Recreational fishing
- Increase in tourism a potential concern for the future
- Inconsistencies in management between Northern GBR and Southern GBR

**The key themes raised by the Douglas LMAC were:**

- Sewage discharge from vessels
- Unsustainable fishing practices
- Current management is confusing – hard to be compliant if you don't know where to gather information from
- Unpermitted use of private moorings
- Noncompliance – fishing in Green zones, dogs on beach
- Lack of regulation enforcement from government

**The key themes raised by the Cairns LMAC were:**

- Need for communication over water quality monitoring results especially if the results are good – good news story.
- Members of the public and commercial operators using private moorings without permission

**The key themes raised by the Hinchinbrook-Cassowary Coast LMAC were:**

- Frustration regarding complexities and inconsistencies with management plans in the marine park – POM needs to be simpler to understand and comply with

**The key themes raised by the Townsville LMAC were:**

- Concerns over shipping vessels – emissions from fuel used to travel
- POM needs to be flexible and needs to include cultural values and impacts of climate change
- Recommended the POM be impact focused instead of outcome focused
- Education of threats to the marine park and on rules/regulations of the Marine Park is important

**The key themes raised by the Bowen-Burdekin LMAC were:**

- Access to reef for smaller vessels – more moorings needed
- Impacts of cruise ships and super yachts
- User conflicts in yellow zones
- Concerns over sewage discharge



**The key themes raised by the Whitsunday LMAC were:**

- Increase in volume and non-compliance of recreational users and lack of catch data
- Increase in number of cruise ships
- High use areas (such as Whitehaven Beach) require further management
- Capping usage at certain sites
- Consult Ngaro/Gia Traditional Owners

**The key themes raised by the Mackay LMAC were:**

- Ongoing threats to sea turtles
- Concerns regarding commercial coral collection
- Anchor damage to St Bees
- Impacts from improved fishing/boating technologies

**The key themes raised by the Capricorn Coast LMAC were:**

- Dumping of fish scraps around North West island
- Spearfishing in high use areas
- Coral collection in high use areas
- Destruction of beaches/dunes by vehicles
- Dogs on boats and in National parks
- Lack of education of marine park users – particularly from SEQ
- Non-compliance in green zones
- Call for increase ranger presence in the park to educate and enforce
- Call for increase in education efforts (on zoning, rules, regulations) – can target SEQ users who are unaware
- Call for increase in fines
- Call for increase in compliance
- Eye on the reef app should show spearfishing closures (public appreciation areas)
- POM should include adaptive management and strategies



### **The key themes raised by the Gladstone LMAC were:**

- Impacts of artificial lights from boats and coastline to sea birds and turtles
- Impacts to sea turtles from 4WD and boating
- Positive changes in behaviour of locals
- Impacts of recreational fishing
- Marine Debris
- Increase in boat traffic
- Increased usage by visitors who are not familiar with Marine Park rules/regulations
- Biosecurity for land-based pest on Cap Bunkers islands
- Decline in seagrass
- Waste water discharge
- Damage to the reef from anchors and ship groundings
- Targeted coral collection
- Presence of larger boats with increased technologies
- Targeted education (e.g. recreational fisher education at fishing competitions)

### **The key themes raised by the Burnett LMAC were:**

- Impacts of light pollution
- Impacts from sewage/graywater/bilge/effluent discharge
- Increase in visitation from users who are not familiar with marine park rules/regulations
- Increase in shark numbers
- Shark management regulations around North West island impractical
- Increase in recreational users
- Increase in presence of larger vessels
- General non-compliance
- Need an increase in education and enforcement of rules/regulations
- Need to manage user capacity



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