

WE ARE REEF GUARDIANS

"The future is not somewhere we're going, it's something we're creating."

Rockhampton Regional Council

Judith Stutchbury

Year-two teacher,
Kalkie State School, Bundaberg



"From little things, big things grow. As Reef Guardians, we learn that the small changes we adopt in our schools and homes can collectively become large changes that can help protect our Great Barrier Reef."

Emily Walker

Year-five student and Straw No More
campaign leader, Townsville



"Every day I worry how my world will turn out, but then I remember that there are thousands of Reef Guardian students out there like me who strive to make a difference for the human race and our future."

Paul Wood

Special education teacher,
Magnetic Island State School, Townsville



"It is vital for all our students to understand the importance of protecting the environment and improving its health. The Reef Guardian program supports teachers to educate students about environmental issues and provides a focal point and impetus from which to develop school programs to care for our Reef."

Councillor Jeff Baines

Cassowary Coast Regional Council,
Innisfail



"As a Reef Guardian Council, I'm proud of how my organisation and community have embraced change in regard to waste and land management initiatives. The program has inspired creativity with asset management and enabled innovation in design, such as 'fish hotels' within our recent seawall project."

Matt and Bron Calder

Fishers,
Whitsunday Islands



"As a fishing family, we depend on the Reef for our livelihood. As Reef Guardians, we endeavor to do everything we can to minimise our impact and ensure we use our resources wisely so they will be around for future generations."

James Gaston

Gudjuda Traditional Owner,
Ayr



"Gudjuda means saltwater. The waters of the Reef run in my veins. I am a proud guardian of my sea country and believe we must share these traditions with the Reef Guardians of the future."



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

reef
guardians

#LoveTheReef



EVEN THE SMALLEST OF ACTIONS

ARE CREATING RIPPLES OF CHANGE

REEF GUARDIAN NETWORK



1+

Every individual Reef Guardian makes a difference



150+

Partner organisations working together via the Reef Guardian network



500+

Stories are shared with Reef Guardian communities through media channels



1,000+

Reef Guardian student leaders driving stewardship action in schools and communities



10,000+

Actions are taken by Reef Guardians to help protect the Reef



1,000,000+

Community members within Reef Guardian Council regions are influenced to take action for the Reef

18 REEF GUARDIAN COUNCILS

9,200 STAFF

1 MILLION RESIDENTS

270 REEF GUARDIAN SCHOOLS

8000 TEACHERS

120,000 STUDENTS

26 REEF GUARDIAN FISHERS

200 STAFF

ACROSS COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

CARE

LEARN

ACT

SHARE

KEY

○ Reef Guardian Schools

■ Reef Guardian Council Regions

Our actions are making a difference

Together, since 2003, more than half a million Reef Guardians have participated in tens of thousands of actions. These actions are improving the resilience of our Great Barrier Reef.

Addressing the threats to the Reef through stewardship action



Council cuts climate impacts

Cairns Regional Council installs one megawatt of solar power to cut 50 per cent of emissions by 2020.



Students look after turtles

Through their "Low Glow" campaign, students at Kalkie State School leave reminder notes for teachers who leave the lights on.



Vehicles promote change

Cassowary Coast Council promotes anti-littering with their waste collection vehicles.



Kids clean up beaches

Students in Bundaberg conducted one of 300 clean-up events on the Reef in 2019.



Algae cleans up water

Burdekin Shire Council is trialling use of algae to clean excess nutrients out of water heading to Reef.



Youth keep tabs on water

South Johnstone students measure phosphorous content in water heading out to the Reef.



Fisherman finds use for waste

Commercial fisherman Glen Murray is turning 250,000 tonnes of fish waste into premium pet food.



Farmer filters water run-off

Banana farmer Gavin Eilers has installed a silt trap to clean the water running off his farm at Stockton.