



Reef
Authority

Local Marine
Advisory Committee

LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' MEETING

COMMUNIQUE OCTOBER 2023



Introduction

Senior Reef Authority staff and Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) Chairs and Secretaries (or their proxies) of the 11 LMACs met in Townsville on 7 October 2023 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2021-2024 LMAC term.

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

Welcome

Fred Nucifora, Director, welcomed attendees to the meeting and paid respects to the Wulgurukaba and Bindal Traditional Owners and acknowledged their traditional lands and sea country.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Update

The Reef Authority's General Manager for Strategic Policy and Partnerships, Margaret Johnson provided an overview which included:

- With World Heritage, the Reef Authority has been working hard in our role of providing expert advice on the state of the Reef and its management. We will continue to collaborate with the Committee and our Australian and Queensland government colleagues to strengthen and enhance our efforts to improve the health and resilience of the Reef.
- International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) 37th General Meeting was held in Hawaii.
- The Reef Authority hosted a Pacific Coral Reef Collective in Cairns with our pacific neighbours, collectively sharing challenges facing coral reefs, sharing knowledge and exploring innovative solutions.
- The Australian Government's \$15.1 million Tourism Reef Protection Initiative is continuing to deliver results, providing conservation, monitoring, and protection at high-valued tourism sites along the Reef. It aims to support and protect tourism sites, increase in-water monitoring and site stewardship actions.
- Reef Guardian Schools program is celebrating 20 years and is aiming to roll out globally in 2023, with development of a digital portal underway.

Richard Quincey, General Manager for Reef Protection, reported that:

- The [Crown-of-thorns Starfish Control Program](#) continues to grow. Approximately 17,000 dive hours in water and new funding until 2030. The Reef Authority is currently going to tender to refresh our set of suppliers.
- Partnering with Traditional Owners and developing four new [Traditional Use of Marine Resources Agreements](#) (TUMRA) groups. Over 43% of the Great Barrier Reef coastline is under a TUMRA. The Reef Authority continues to work with the groups to work with their neighbours.
- The Permission Systems is client focused and continues to provide support to all that need a permit, tailoring to triage workloads.
- The [Field Management](#) section works together with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. Since the Vessel Monitoring System was turned on in 2019, it has been able to pick up a lot more non-compliance.

Ian Walker, General Manager for Major Projects, reported that:

- The Reef Authority has started working on the Southern Plan of Management, in partnership with Traditional Owners and together with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, industry, and the community to establish a plan of management that protects and conserves the values of the Great Barrier Reef complementing the zoning plan.
- The Reef Authority is progressing the redevelopment of the Great Barrier Reef Aquarium in Townsville, the [National Education Centre](#) for the Great Barrier Reef.
- Continuing to enhance the [Reef 2050 Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program](#) by building on partnerships with organisations where the Reef Authority can harness information into one common space.
- The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report, published every five years, is an evidence-based report prepared by the Reef Authority per legislation; it looks at the Great Barrier Reef's health, pressures, and future. The next version will be presented to the Minister for the Environment by 30 June 2024.
- The in-water component of the [Douglas Shoal environmental remediation project](#) has been completed.

Reef 2050 Advisory Committee update

Cr Jeff Baines, Hinchinbrook-Cassowary Coast Chair, has had the pleasure of representing the LMAC at five [Reef 2050 Advisory Committee](#) meetings this term so far. The strength of the LMACs has given him the confidence on sharing the knowledge provided to him with issues, topics, ideas elevated at the end of each LMAC meeting.

Reef Health and climate change

The Reef Authority's Chief Scientist, Roger Beeden's presentation on the current outlook of the Great Barrier Reef highlighted the government's current position statement on climate change, global conditions within coral reef habitats, temperature comparisons between northern and southern hemispheres, bleaching and the consequences of the upcoming El Nino weather pattern and coral cover trends that have been relatively stable.

Summer response

Richard Quincey presented on Reef Health Assessments and Responses. In his presentation, he mentioned that never before have we been able to gain so much data. Part of what the Reef Authority does is look across all products such as satellite, in-water, existing monitoring programs, dedicated surveys, aerial surveys, across other organisations, across the whole of the Reef Authority as well as our key organisational partners, sharing information to prepare as best we can for the next five years of summers.

The Reef Authority closely monitors the condition of the Reef all year round, with an increased focus over Summer. [Summer Reef health updates](#) will be provided weekly over the Summer period and will be available on our website. The Reef Authority is keen to continue adding to our products to have a toolbox to assist with communicating the messages.

Workshop one – strategic meeting agenda planning for 2023/2024 financial year

The attendees were advised that:

- There are 45 key initiatives across the Reef Authority's business. These key initiatives will be reported to the Marine Park Authority Board.
- There are 25 key priorities that the Reef Authority considers priorities for the LMACs to be involved in.

Members were put into groups and then circulated around a series of tables to workshop with a General Manager and their branch's Directors. The members used a dotmocracy method to vote on which items they would like to have as a topic of discussion for the LMAC meetings next year.

The topics chosen were the Eye on the Reef App and Fishing Compliance. Other items will be circulated to the LMACs via other communications methods such as Reef Wide presentations, emails etc.

Workshop two – reflection of the current LMAC term

During the August round of LMAC meetings, members and management partners were invited to provide comments on four topics: meeting governance, the LMAC Terms of Reference and Induction Manual, Reef Wide Presentations and use of social media channels.

The meeting attendees reported back on their committee's suggestions, what didn't work, and reflections on the current term and suggested changes going forward into the new term.

Good news stories

The attendees were told about the Burdekin Shire Council's Macro-algae Bioremediation Project. This is a positive story for community and the Reef. More information can be found of the Burdekin Shire Council's website - [Excitement Building as Macro-Algal Facility Breaks Ground](#)

The World Cetacean Alliance has put the Whitsunday region as a candidate for Whale Heritage Site status. This will put it on track to be the world's first Whale Heritage Area within a World Heritage-listed site. The site proposed is the same footprint as the Reef Authority's Whale Protection Area. The steering committee have run pre-whale season events, started to collect audio recordings to capture whale sounds, logging photos through the "happy whales" site, and there has been lots of cultural involvement. It's building stewardship and hopefully in the next few months it will become fully certified. For more information can be found on these websites: [Whale Heritage Sites](#) , [Happy Whales](#), [Wildlife Heritage Areas](#)

LMAC members

Jessie Price-Decle, Chair
Renata Musson, Secretary
Jim Newman, Chair
Jacob Matysek, Secretary
Jeff Baines, Chair
Michale Nash, Proxy
Sharon Marks, Chair
Jon Day, Proxy
Lyn McLaughlin, Acting Chair
Deanna Vierling, Secretary
Olivia Brodhurst, Chair
Phil Jeston, Chair
Nicki Stokes, Secretary
John McGrath, Proxy
Stuart Kininmonth, Proxy
Jessica Cooke, Secretary
Marrk Mergard, Proxy
Mark Middleton, Proxy

Cape York LMAC
Douglas LMAC
Cairns LMAC
Cairns LMAC
Hinchinbrook-Cassowary Coast LMAC
Hinchinbrook-Cassowary Coast LMAC
Townsville LMAC
Townsville LMAC
Bowen-Burdekin LMAC
Bowen-Burdekin LMAC
Whitsunday LMAC
Mackay LMAC
Mackay LMAC
Capricorn Coast LMAC
Gladstone LMAC
Gladstone LMAC
Burnett LMAC
Burnett LMAC

Reef Authority

Margaret Johnson
Richard Quincey
Ian Walker
Teena Browning
Karen Markwort
Darren Cameron
Kirstin Dobbs
Karen Markwort
Fiona Merida
Fred Nucifora
Jason Ramsamy
Carolyn Roche
Kate Finch

General Manager
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General Manager
Chief Scientist
Director
Director
Director
Director
A/Director
Director
Director
Assistant Director, Strategic Engagement
Strategic Engagement Officer

