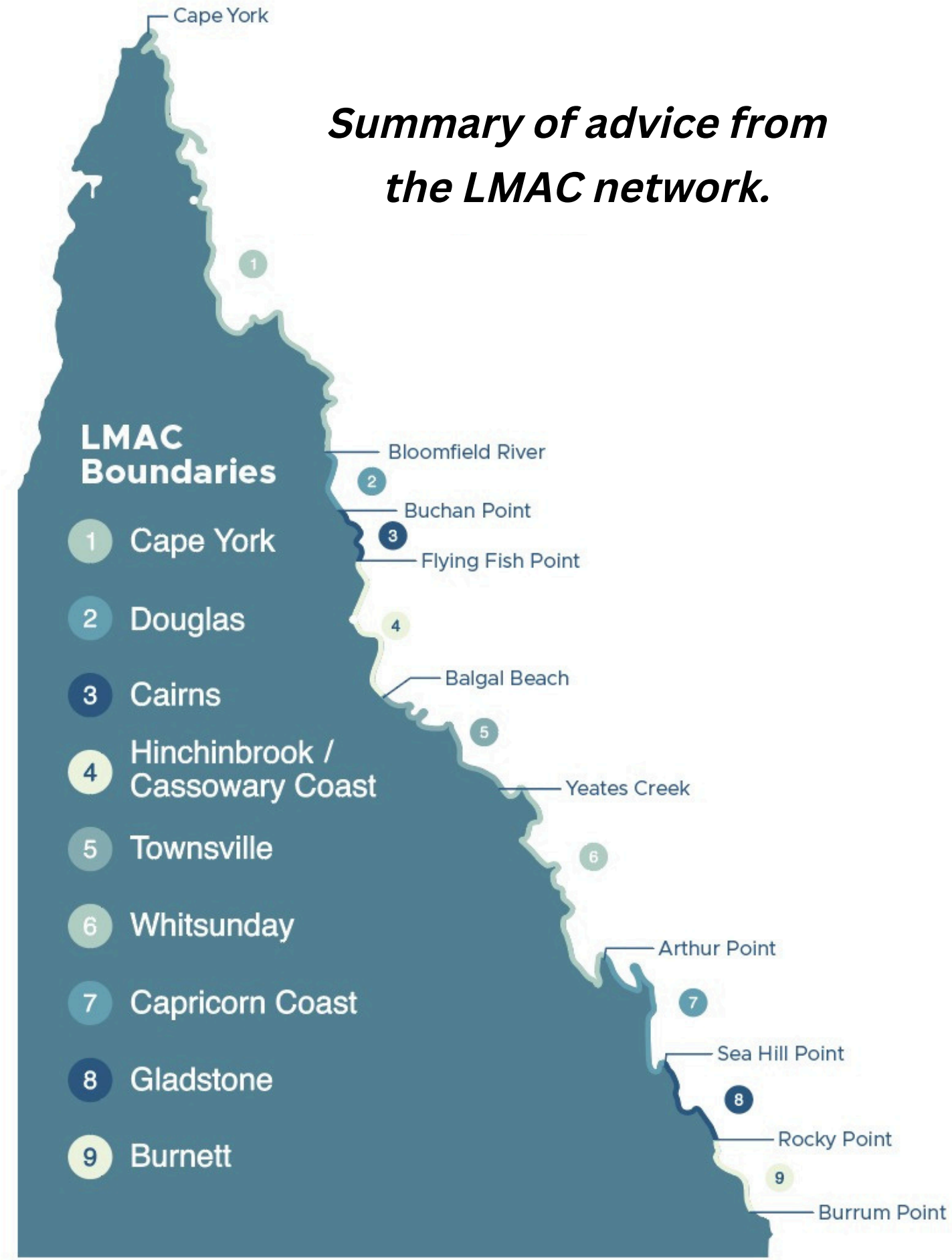
Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Reef Authority

LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2024

Summary of advice from the LMAC network.



Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Reef Authority | Local Marine Advisory Committee

The Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) held their second meeting for the 2024-2027 term in November 2024.

Sustainable Fisheries Position Statement

The attendees were given an overview of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Position Statement on Sustainable Fisheries. The presentation included:

- Management of Fishing and Fisheries in the Marine Park
- What is 'Ecologically Sustainable'?
- The fishing information in the Outlook 2024 Report
- REEF Health: a summer of cumulative impacts
- An overview of what needs to be done to be ecologically sustainable
- How the Reef Authority will achieve this
- Next steps

The members were asked for their advice on how the Reef Authority can:

- Better promote Reef Stewardship and the importance of ecologically sustainable fisheries.
- What information and tools do we need to improve understanding and compliance of fishing rules in the Marine Park
- Promote the exchange of information to stakeholders
- Opportunities or ideas

A summary of the key issues raised across all LMAC's include:

- There is a strong interest from the community in fishing matters, however without active engagement it isn't 'front-of-mind' for the general public.
- There is a need to improve the community's understanding of fishing and fisheries management in Queensland. This will help support the Reef Authority objective to ensure ecologically sustainable fisheries in the Marine Park.
- There is a perceived lack of engagement from the Reef Authority to the community and this could be greatly improved (see specific suggestions section below).
- There is a clear preference for information to be provided in a manner that is simple, clear, in 'plain-English' and able to engage the audience.
- Providing positive incentives for fishers and industry to 'do-the-right-thing' will help achieve sustainability outcomes.

Specific suggestions provided by the members included:

- Activities for Recreational fishers to get involved to ‘give back’ (eg: habitat restoration, offsets)
- Attend fishing clubs and events
- Change the rhetoric with zoning information
- Chunk information and using less words
- Create future legislation via campsite bookings or car or boat registrations
- Contract a third party or Citizen Science data collection
- Educating children - Science messages for students
- Encourage people to report illegal behaviour
- Enforcement Officers to be out and about and be seen
- Explain science in a simple way
- Gamification of messages
- Incentives for commercial fishers to help implement the strategies
- Influence the Queensland Government to encourage sustainable practices
- Infographics & messages given to "influencers"
- Look at people’s attitudes and respond to these
- Maps at fishing stores
- Promote stories of people doing the right thing
- Promote Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program and Reef Knowledge System
- Showcase that it’s not a lack of numbers of fish, but the cost for operators to collect them
- Show the connection of having healthy coral will get healthy fish
- Target specific groups with information such as fishing groups, commercial fishers to promote how they fish sustainably, seafood industry especially about behaviour change
- Use games/apps, interactive tools, social media, short videos - Make posts catchy and entertaining
- Use Reef Ambassadors
- Work with compliance team on messaging and communication team to promote materials
- Work with Department of Transport and boating license facilitators to incorporate questions regarding zoning when applying for your boating license

Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Reef Authority | Local Marine Advisory Committee

Southern Plan of Management

The attendees at the Burnett, Gladstone and Capricorn Coast LMACs were given an update on the Southern Plan of Management. Note – previous Mackay LMAC members attended some of these LMACs.

Northern LMACs were provided an update as part of the general Reef Authority update.

The presentation included:

- An update on Stage 1 Public Consultation Report and Southern POM workshop 1
- Next steps including Southern POM workshop 2 and development of draft strategies by mid 2025.
- Update on threats and issues raised by LMAC members during 2023 and 2024.

Members brainstormed management strategy ideas for increased recreational use, an issue raised by all southern LMACs.

Suggestions and advice provided by the members included:

<u>Rec boating:</u>

- Follow National Guidelines on lighting
- Immediate removal of grounded vessels to minimise impacts on marine environment
- Work with Qld transport to include questions in the boat license exam on Marine Park rules / zoning

<u>Rec fishing:</u>

- Fishing licence to include test on Marine Park rules
- Increase education (social media, videos, catchy messaging etc)
- Introduce recreation fishing licences
- Promote Reef Integrated Monitoring and Reporting Program and Reef Knowledge System

<u>Non-compliance:</u>

- Compliance needs to be visible in the Marine Park
- Enforceable permit conditions
- Focus on areas with high risk eg: sensitive environment
- Increase Eye on the Reef app awareness
- Increase fines
- Map Marine Park usage and create hot spot maps.
- Online courses to show competency
- Vessel incidents/ groundings the owners be held accountable. Confiscate vessels.

<u>Pollution:</u>

- Increase sewage pump out facilities (marinas, ports etc)
- Focus on areas with high risk eg: sensitive environment
- Work with Reef Guardian Councils

Lack of knowledge of rules:

- Accommodation places to be involved in educating visitors
- Include education about safety
- Information targeted to cultural backgrounds to educate overseas visitors & immigrants (non-English background)
- Involve offshore islands in education
- Interpretive signage at beach access points
- Mobile phone notifications when in the GBR region
- Reef Authority staff to attend events, shows and festivals to educate people
- Signage along highways (could even be trivia signs) and at fueling facilities and to contain relevant apps or QR code
- Streamline rules across jurisdictions
- Target education towards visitors from outside GBR region
- Tourism Information Centers be involved in education

Turtles:

- Dark sky tourism to minimise light impacts on turtles
- Educate campers about lighting best practices as part of camping permits
- Engage with coastal developers to minimize impact to turtles
- Promote turtle safer lights and no lights on beaches
- Restrict 4WD on beaches during nesting season
- ·Revegetate and maintain sand dunes

Increased access to remote areas:

- Access some areas by designated tours only
- Embrace adventurous Marine Park visitors and encourage people to upload photos and information on Eye on the Reef App when visiting more remote areas.
- Limit the number of boats and people to specific locations/zones or have a license for specific areas

Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Reef Authority

REEFAUTHORITY.GOV.AU