

ANCHORING AND MOORING

Mission Beach to Townsville

The Great Barrier Reef is a nautical paradise. As you navigate the waters from Mission Beach to Townsville, please keep your ripple effect small by practising careful anchoring and mooring.

Doing so helps ensure the region remains enjoyable for everyone while protecting its delicate marine habitats, like coral reefs.

This guide provides vital information on anchoring and public moorings, along with key practices to safeguard this remarkable natural wonder for future generations.

Responsible practices

- **Use suitable moorings** whenever possible. Approach moorings carefully and avoid damaged moorings.
- **Anchor in sand or mud**, away from coral, when moorings aren't available. Use only the necessary chain and line.
- **Avoid feeding fish** at moorings to help ensure a safe and sustainable environment for all.



 *Yachts using public moorings.* © Queensland Government



Public moorings

Public moorings are available at popular locations throughout the region. These blue cone-shaped buoys have a colour-coded band indicating class (vessel length), time limits and wind strength limits.

Using moorings

- Moorings are first-come, first-served.
- Use the right mooring suited to your vessel and weather conditions.
- Only one vessel per public mooring; attach at front.
- Observe time limits (usually two hours, four hours or 24 hours).
- Vacate when your time is up; overnight stays are from 3 pm to 9 am.

Private moorings are also in the area and can be identified by colours such as white, fluorescent pink, orange or yellow. These require the owner's permission before use.



No-anchoring areas

No-anchoring areas protect coral reefs from anchor damage and are indicated by reef protection markers—white pyramid-shaped buoys with a blue label. There are seven no-anchoring areas in this region, located at:

- Brook Islands
- Pioneer Bay, Orpheus Island
- Yanks Jetty, Orpheus Island
- Indigo Bay, Fantome Island
- Arthur Bay, Magnetic Island
- Florence Bay, Magnetic Island
- Picnic Bay, Magnetic Island

Anchoring with care

- You may enter these areas; however, never anchor inside of markers.
- Anchoring is allowed on beaches if no tidal restrictions.
- Do not attach your vessel to reef protection markers; they are not designed for that purpose.

It is an offence to damage coral in the marine parks.

Public mooring	Colour code	Class	Max. vessel length		Max. wind speed
	Brown	T	6m tender only		24 knots
					
	Yellow	A	10m	9m	24 knots
	Green	B	20m	18m	34 knots
	Blue	C	25m	22m	34 knots
	Red	D	35m	30m	34 knots

Further information

Learn more at reefauthority.gov.au/moorings-and-no-anchoring-areas

Please report any misused or damaged public moorings on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

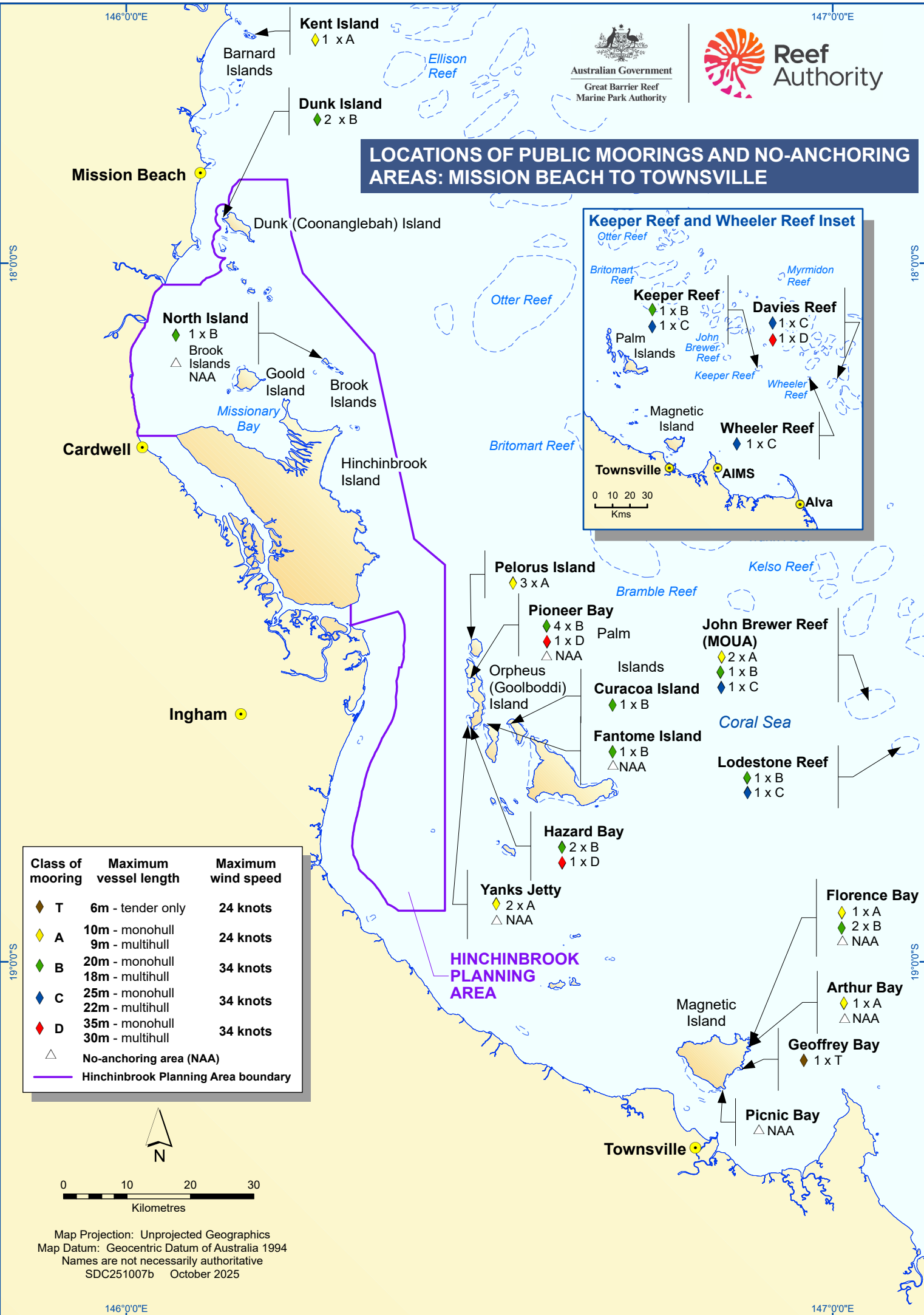


Scan for more info and digital maps

146°0'0"E

147°0'0"E

LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC MOORINGS AND NO-ANCHORING AREAS: MISSION BEACH TO TOWNSVILLE



Location	Mooring class	Max. vessel length	Installed latitude GDA94 ddm	Installed longitude GDA94 ddm
Curacoa Island	B	20m	18° 39.633' S	146° 32.467' E
Davies Reef	C	25m	18° 49.828' S	147° 38.094' E
	D	35m	18° 49.734' S	147° 38.240' E
Dunk Island	B	20m	17° 55.976' S	146° 08.251' E
	B	20m	17° 56.034' S	146° 08.094' E
Fantome Island	B	20m	18° 39.580' S	146° 30.539' E
John Brewer Reef	A	10m	18° 36.875' S	147° 04.199' E
	A	10m	18° 36.889' S	147° 04.139' E
	B	20m	18° 37.331' S	147° 03.149' E
	C	25m	18° 37.170' S	147° 03.368' E
Keeper Reef	B	20m	18° 44.720' S	147° 15.866' E
	C	25m	18° 44.617' S	147° 15.994' E
Kent Island	A	10m	17° 40.430' S	146° 10.643' E
Lodestone Reef	B	20m	18° 41.105' S	147° 06.382' E
	C	25m	18° 41.289' S	147° 05.777' E
Magnetic Island - Geoffrey Bay	T	6m	19° 09.291' S	146° 52.113' E
Magnetic Island - Arthur Bay	A	10m	19° 07.775' S	146° 52.686' E
Magnetic Island - Florence Bay	A	10m	19° 07.376' S	146° 52.810' E
	B	20m	19° 07.327' S	146° 52.937' E
	B	20m	19° 07.361' S	146° 52.867' E
North Island – Brook Islands	B	20m	18° 08.193' S	146° 16.632' E
Orpheus Island – Hazard Bay	B	20m	18° 38.561' S	146° 29.423' E
	B	20m	18° 38.909' S	146° 29.209' E
	D	35m	18° 38.752' S	146° 29.236' E
Orpheus Island - Pioneer Bay	B	20m	18° 35.995' S	146° 29.335' E
	B	20m	18° 35.770' S	146° 29.242' E
	B	20m	18° 35.724' S	146° 29.209' E
	B	20m	18° 35.723' S	146° 29.267' E
	D	35m	18° 35.943' S	146° 29.279' E
Orpheus Island – Yanks Jetty	A	10m	18° 39.119' S	146° 29.150' E
	A	10m	18° 39.193' S	146° 29.180' E
Pelorus Island	A	10m	18° 33.250' S	146° 29.270' E
	A	10m	18° 32.651' S	146° 29.290' E
	A	10m	18° 32.240' S	146° 29.585' E
Wheeler Reef	C	25m	18° 47.713' S	147° 31.279' E

Disclaimer: The published positions are correct to the best of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's knowledge at October 2025. No guarantee is given that the moorings are in the location shown in the table. Vessel skippers should verify the mooring positions with their own GPS equipment prior to attempting to access the moorings. Particular care should be taken in accessing the moorings in poor weather, reduced visibility or at night.

Instructions to vessel masters:

1. Vessel masters are solely responsible for the safety of their vessel while using the public moorings.
2. A watch must be kept at all times while the vessel is on the mooring.
3. Be aware of changing weather and sea conditions and your proximity to obstacles, including coral and other vessels, and how these may be affected by mooring swing.
4. Refer to instructions specified or included on the tag or buoy.