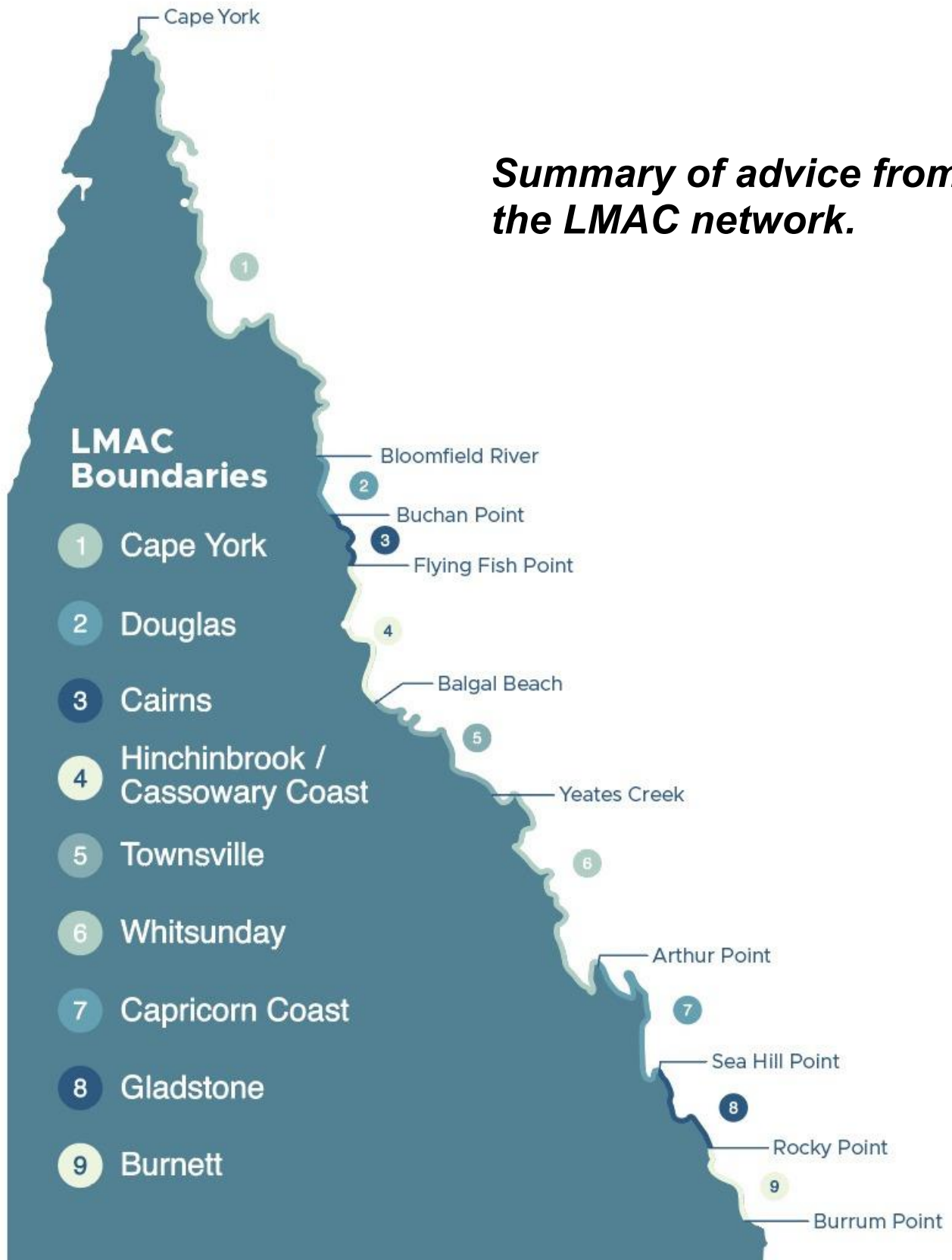


LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AUGUST 2026



***Summary of advice from
the LMAC network.***



The ninth meetings of the Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) for the 2024–2027 term was held in August 2026.

A pre-recorded PowerPoint by the Reef Authority's General Manager for Strategic Policy and Planning, Caroline Turnour, was presented on the Reef 2050 Plan Review and shared with the members.

In the presentation, Caroline spoke about:

- How the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan (the Plan) is Australia's overarching long-term framework for protection.
- The Plan is reviewed every five years and is led by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).
- What are the implications of the review of the Plan.
- What is the timeline for reviewing and consultation.
- Outline of the first round of public consultation.
- What was heard from the stakeholder roundtable events with Traditional Owners, Environmental Advocacy, Local Government, Resource Management and Delivery, and Direct use and industry sectors.
- The common themes that emerged from the consultation.
- Where are we now.
- Encouraging LMAC members to provide input into the updated Plan.
- The next steps on how to participate in the *"Have Your Say"* Phase 2 consultation process.

Collective LMAC member discussion points included:

- Currently the plan does not represent or apply to each region as the Plan is strategic and high level.
- The Plan does not say both everything and nothing specifically.
- Having a long-term Plan (like this one) is going to be a broad brush, due to multiple stakeholders with various goals, targets and resources.
- This is an overarching Plan of implementation with broad objectives. Key target will be to consolidate the known details and aspirations into one implementation plan.
- A Traditional Owner drafting group has been established with involvement up and down the coast. The information gathered from this group will be incorporated into the draft that will be sent out as part of the next public consultation.
- Mandubarra attended the Traditional Owner meeting. It was a great opportunity to be updated on the Plan for the catchment – lots of work done in the Reef Traditional Owners (Reef TO) space.
- Tradition Owners have developed their own plan to go with the Plan. It will address cultural issues that weren't addressed in the previous Plan.
- Great to see Traditional Owners being involved.
- The comms penetration hasn't reached the local level, many people in the community don't know about this review.
- LMAC members are happy to promote upcoming *"Have your Say"* information within networks.
- LMAC members are valued for their local knowledge they have on reef and catchment management, topics and issues.

Recommendations:

The current plan

- Minimize government silos.
- Build a plan that is not too broad but also not too “nitty gritty”.
- Funding guidelines should encourage a holistic approach and explicitly require applicants to demonstrate how they will work with and engage the community.
- Coastal ecosystems management and nature repair is a critical issue for restoring water quality.
- Coastal restoration and catchment management would be an excellent topic to raise in the next round of consultation.

Within the Community

- Continue to work with all local Traditional Owners.
- Stakeholder round table sessions were undertaken with Cairns Traditional Owners. Future session should engage with local Douglas region Traditional Owners as well.
- Members are keen to see more industry being involved and sharing data from non-government organisations.
- Members are supportive of the review and request further update of final priorities and future engagement opportunities for stakeholders. For example: End-users such as farmers involved in fresh water/coastal stewardship projects.

The Reef Authority

- Maintain a high level of LMAC member engagement in the review and planning process.
- Encourage LMACs to make individual submissions. Noting that the next round may happen before the next November LMAC meetings.
- As the Plan will be crafted by the public consultation submissions, LMACs are to encourage other individuals in their networks to put their views forward.
- LMACs to be sent information/links on how to nominate for round table discussions, dates of second consultation phase (approximately October/November) and DCCEEW newsletter.

