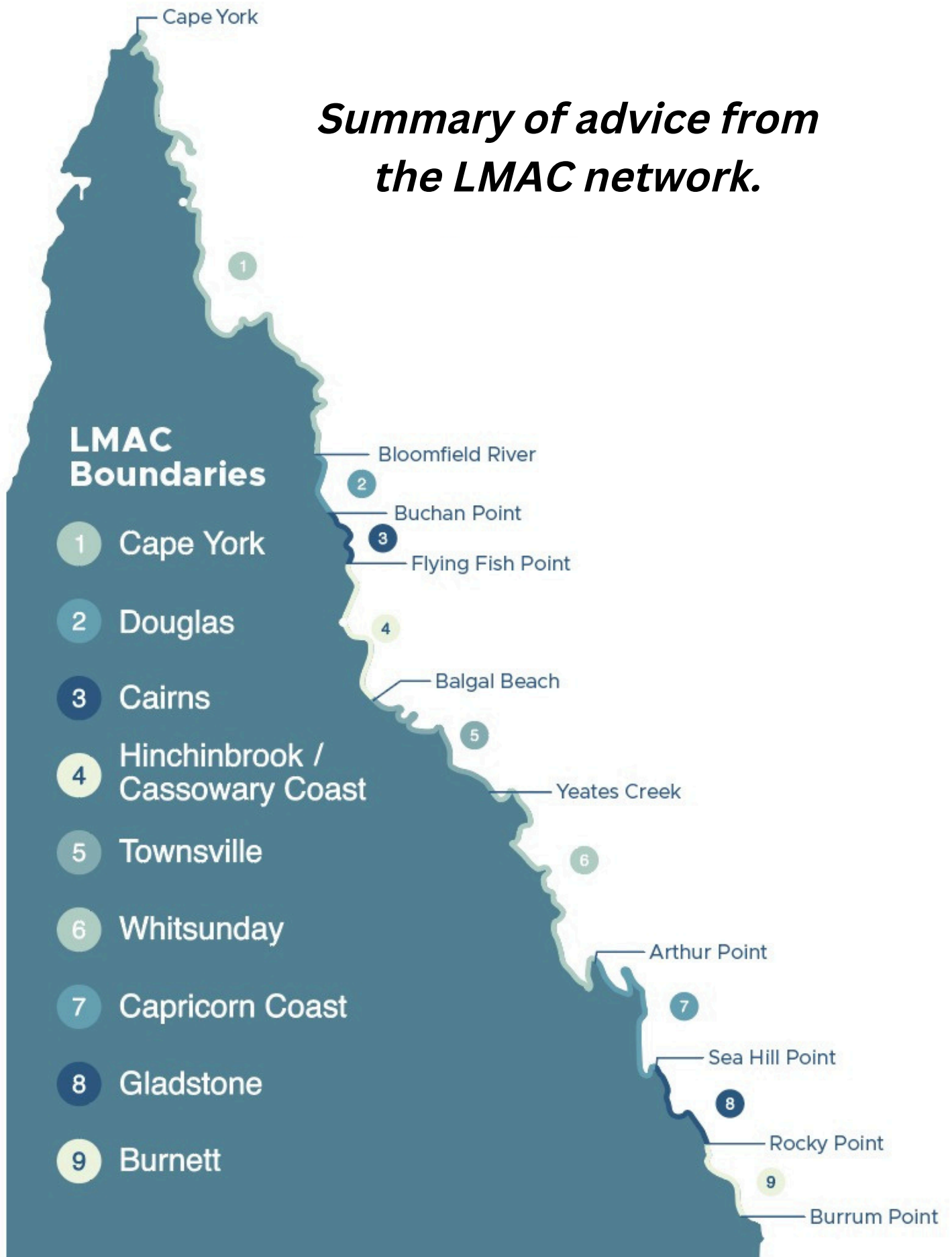


LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MAY 2025



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



The fourth meeting of the Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) for the 2024-2027 term. The Reef Authority presented the status of the Southern Plan of Management.

The northern LMACs received a presentation from the Planning Team updating the members on progress since November 2024, including:

- How the Reef Authority is developing this Plan differently
- A recap on the management strategies that were discussed in November and has been done with the information gathered
- Working with the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation and conservation standard practices:
- using an example of impacts of light pollution on nesting sea turtles, examples of existing strategies to minimise light pollution
- The plan for the next six to eighteen months.

The southern LMACs received a presentation with the above information and then workshopped:

- Issues and opportunities now and into the future
- Regulatory versus educational methods
- Possible locations in the southern planning area for dark skies approach

Collective LMAC Member suggestion for addressing light pollution threats on sea turtles:

- Closing blinds and turning off external lights
- Education being vital to encourage light reduction on boats
- Enforcing light restrictions in certain areas
- Raise awareness and get key messages out to the public
- Increase the use of drones
- Increase information about turtles nesting on beaches (eg: location, timing)
- Limiting the use of non-navigational lights at specific locations
- Make people aware of sensitive areas
- More funding for surveys
- Need to include industry
- Promotion of Dark Sky Tourism through tourism bodies
- Pumpkin Island as a potential Dark Sky location
- Use of apps - 'Push notifications' when close to certain areas (islands, specific beaches)
- Removal of sandbags
- Seasonal limits with lights
- Use as an opportunity to highlight region
- Use of red lights on boats
- Working with boat manufacturers regarding installation of lights.



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