



A communique is prepared after each scheduled official meeting of the twelve Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) to inform relevant stakeholders, including the public, of the business of the LMAC. The document forms part of the records of the meeting and its content is limited to matters raised in the meeting. Any inquiries should be referred to the relevant LMAC email address or lmac@gbrmpa.gov.au.

BOWEN - BURDEKIN LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 7 July 2016 - Bowen COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Bowen-Burdekin Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) met in Bowen on 7 July 2016 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2015 – 2018 LMAC term.

Welcome

Joe Linton welcomed members to the meeting.

The initial part of the meeting was open to the public for a special presentation on coral bleaching. The general public were offered the option to stay for the rest of the meeting once the presentation was completed.

Coral Bleaching

Dr Matt Curnock, Northern Liaison Manager from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), gave a presentation about coral bleaching. In his presentation, he gave an overview of what a coral was and under what conditions bleaching occurred.

He presented sea surface temperature graphs showing that February to June this year were the hottest months on record since 1900. The forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology suggests that above average sea surface temperatures will

persist across the Great Barrier Reef for the next several months.

He explained how the recent surveys had been conducted, with aerial surveys of 911 reefs, and detailed in-water surveys of 63 reefs across seven broad transects from north to south. He explained that even though a coral shows signs of bleaching, the coral is not dead and may recover if the stress decreases. GBRMPA has a coral mortality map on its website, which is updated regularly as new information becomes available.

Matt explained how resilient corals can be. There were pictures showing how corals can recover from severe impacts (for example, Taylor Reef after Cyclone Yasi).

He finished the presentation by saying that a resilient reef will survive and it is up to everyone to do as much as possible to mitigate pressures at local, regional and global scales.

LMAC Shirts

The LMAC members were shown a variety of sun safe shirt options available for them to choose. Once the design is agreed to, the Bowen-Burdekin LMAC logo will be added and the shirts will be given to the members.

Walk to the Lighthouse

Recently, the tide was low enough for people to walk to the lighthouse on North Head Island. This occurs twice a year and hundreds of people take the opportunity to partake in this activity.

The council were asked to assist in organising the day and it was agreed that the LMAC should have a stall at the next event. This will educate the public about best practises when reef walking and give them information about the marine animals they may find.

LMAC Business Cards

It was suggested the Bowen Burdekin LMAC have business cards to help promote the LMAC. The members would not get individual business cards, but it would be a uniform one for all members.

Field Trip

A variety of field trip options were discussed with the group. Potential places to visit included: Pacific Reef Fisheries, Mullers Lagoon, local wetlands and a cane farm.

The members will discuss this further at the next meeting.

LMAC Terms of Reference

The members were given a copy of the new LMAC Terms of Reference. These are the guidelines for the LMAC for this term.

Next meeting

The next official meeting of the Bowen – Burdekin LMAC will be held in Bowen on 7 September 2016. This will be the seventh meeting of the 2015-2018 LMAC term.

LMAC Membership

Arthur Darwen (Member)	Agriculture	Independent
Ivan Garrod (Member)	Conservation	Queens Beach Action Group
Joe Linton (Chair)	Recreational Boating	Independent
Anne Mecklem (Member)	Tourism	Aussie Reef Dive
John Moloney (Member)	Aquaculture	Pacific Reef Fisheries
Tom Mullins (Member)	Agriculture	Independent
Anne Smith (Member)	Progress Association	Independent
Mardi Mathieson		Secretariat

Management Partners

Carolyn Thompson	World Heritage Partner	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Matt Curnock	World Heritage Partner	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Observers

Dave Clark
Chloe Densley

Apologies

Ian Anderson (Member)	Recreational Fishing	Independent
Stephen Darwen (Member)	Tourism	The Bowen Independent
Gordon Little (Member)	Recreation Fishing	Bowen Outdoor Supplies
Ross Lewis (Member)	Marine Rescue	Transport Services
Matt Quadrell (Member)	Commercial Fishing	Independent