



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](mailto:lmac@gbrmpa.gov.au).

## CASSOWARY COAST LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 14 July 2016 – Innisfail COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Cassowary Coast Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) met in Innisfail on 14 July 2016 for their sixth meeting of the 2015 – 2018 term.

### Update on Reef Trust

Kevin Gale from the Department of Environment provided an update to LMAC members on Reef Trust via telephone. The Australian Government has committed \$210 million over 2014–2019 to support initiatives that improve water quality, coastal ecosystem health and species protection. The Reef Trust is one of a range of mechanisms assisting in the delivery of the Reef 2050 Plan.

Investments will be phased over the duration of Reef Trust, and consultations with key interest groups are ongoing. Cassowary Coast LMAC members expressed a keen interest in the consultations. Issues of particular interest included investments in improving soil health to minimise fertiliser use, and wider communication of success stories resulting from the current and previous Reef protection initiatives. LMAC members recommended that the approach to water quality improvement must go beyond nutrient inputs, and should include assessment of the wider social and environmental systems that may assist in improving water quality.

### Shipping in the Reef

Members discussed the risks associated with shipping inside the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. Information provided by representatives from Maritime Safety Queensland sought to correct a common misperception, noting that it is safer for ships to travel inside the Reef where they could drop anchor easily and receive assistance from nearby ports should any loss of power or steerage occur. The waters of the Coral Sea outside the Reef are too deep for anchoring, and they are much further from assistance if needed. [A report on shipping statistics](#) (including risk management) and ports in the Great Barrier Reef region is available.

### Protecting herbivores poster

Recovery of reefs after the 2016 mass coral bleaching event are dependent on herbivorous fish, which remove algae from the substrate and allow new corals to grow. A new poster was circulated, asking fishers to voluntarily not take key species.

### Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 14 September 2016 at the Kurrimine Beach pub, with a potential presentation by a shark researcher (To be confirmed).

## LMAC Membership

Steve Howe	Commercial Fishing	QSIA
Kerryn Bell	Tourism	Independent
Bill Shannon	Agriculture	Independent
Franc Sciacca	Reef Guardian banana farmer	Independent
Maurice Franklin	Conservation & NRM	C4
Michael Ottone	Agriculture	Independent
Dan Schaper	WH Management Partner Agency	NPRSR
Carmen Walker	Secretary	
Proxy		
Matt Curnock (for Doon McColl)	WH Management Partner Agency	GBRMPA
Absent		
Roger Green	Commercial Fishing	Independent
Althea Harding	WH Management Partner Agency	GBRMPA
Doon McColl	WH Management Partner Agency	GBRMPA
Ian Stewart	Education	Tully State High School
Whitney Rassup	Traditional Owner	Girringun Corporation
Glen Murray	Commercial Fishing	Independent
Henry Epong	Traditional Owner	Mandubarra Corporation
Bart Dryden	Conservation & NRM	Terrain NRM
Dave Nissen	Recreational Boating	Independent
Peter Faulkner	Conservation & NRM	Independent
Tony Lee	Ports and Shipping	Independent
Peter Reed	Agriculture	Independent