



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.

MACKAY LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 11 May 2016 -Mackay COMMUNIQUE

Members of the Mackay Local Marine Advisory Committee (LMAC) met in Mackay on 11 May 2016 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2015-2018 LMAC term.

Welcome

Fred Nucifora welcomed members and visitors to the meeting and acknowledged apologies. He also acknowledged the Traditional Owners, the Yuiberra People, upon whose land the meeting was held.

Reef Recovery Plan

Fred Nucifora 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 graphs showing that February and March this year were the two hottest months on record since 1900 and maps showing sea surface temperatures and accumulated heat stress on the Reef. The current forecast from the Bureau for May-October suggests that for all of those months, it will be warmer than average.

He explained how the recent surveys had been conducted with 991 aerial surveys

and 63 reefs on seven transects. He explained that even though a coral shows signs of bleaching, the coral is not dead and may recover if the stress decreases.

Fred explained how resilient corals can be. There were pictures of some reefs that have had corals severe impacts in previous years from cyclones and have recovered.

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 both local and global.

Life on the Fringe presentation

Debbie Chamberlain gave a presentation on choosing spatially explicit actions for coastal ecosystems.

In her presentation, she spoke about the loss of ecological services unless biodiversity decline is slowed or halted.

She gave an overview of the Mackay/Whitsunday Natural Resource Management Region and how they were using remote sensing for data collection. The presentation also showed statistics on the worldwide decline of marine coastal ecosystems – in particular coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass salt marshes and oyster reefs.

Healthy Rivers to Reef Partnership

Emma Carlos, Project Support officer for Reef Catchments provided an introduction to the Mackay-Whitsundays Healthy River to Reef Partnership.

The Partnerships vision is for healthy rivers and Reef contributing to a prosperous and iconic region where people visit, live work and play. There are over 25 different organisations in the Partnership and Emma explained what the benefits to the partners were.

The group released a 2014 Pilot Report card in October 2015. The card reported on the 2013/14 existing monitoring data, values for the region and scoring methodologies. The report card will be released on an annual basis.

The key results from the report card included: a lack of data in the Whitsundays

and Bowen regions, contaminants in the Pioneer and Plane basins were identified as key issues, the majority of estuarine zones in the region have modified flow regimes and that social assessment showed that people in the region cared deeply about the waterways for the lifestyle and social benefits that they provide.

Project Plans

The members endorsed the project proposal from Mackay District Turtle Watch Association. They will purchase pin boards for the group to use to display their educational materials.

Next meeting

The next official meeting of the Mackay LMAC will be held in Mackay on 13 July 2016. This will be the sixth meeting of the 2015-2018 LMAC term.

LMAC Membership

Members

Debbie Chamberlain (Member)	Conservation	Independent
Terry Cox (Member)	Tourism	Independent
John Eden (Member)	Agriculture	Canegrowers
Fay Griffin (Member)	Conservation	Mackay Turtle Watch
Greg Lewis (Member)		Independent
Nikki Stokes (Secretary)	Ports & Shipping	North Queensland Bulk Ports
John Sweet (Member)	Agriculture	Community Rural Regional Innovative Support

Management Partners

Fred Nucifora	World Heritage Partner	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
Carolyn Thompson	World Heritage Partner	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

Apologies

Simone Baker (Member)	Education	Relief Teacher
Jeff Bonney (Member)		Independent
Craig Davenport (Member)	Industry	Catchment Solutions
Ross Courtenay (Member)	Charter Boat	Independent
Caitlyn Davies (Chair)	Conservation	Conservation Volunteers Australia
Amanda Lavarack (Member)	Agriculture	State Development
Les Todd (Member)	Recreation Fishing	Independent
Mick Wynne (Member)	Recreation Fishing	Mackay Recreation Fishing Alliance

Observers

John Bennet
Bec Simmons

Presenters

Emma Clarke

Healthy River To Reef Partnership