



Australian Government

Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Local Marine Advisory Committees

Fact Sheet No. 12

June 2006



Community Input into Management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA), is advised on management issues at a local level by community-based committees. These are called Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs). There are currently eleven LMACs based along the Queensland coast in Cooktown, Port Douglas, Cairns, Mission Beach, Hinchinbrook, Townsville, Whitsundays, Mackay, Capricorn Coast, Gladstone, and the Burnett regions.

The LMACs were setup by GBRMPA to better involve the community in the management of the Marine Park. They provide a community forum for representative groups and the local community to come together to discuss issues

relating to management of marine resources and to advise the GBRMPA accordingly. This helps the GBRMPA to keep in touch with marine related issues at a local level. The LMACs play an educational

role in helping to increase public awareness on Marine Park management and impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and coastal areas. They provide an avenue for stakeholder groups and the community to voice their concerns directly with the GBRMPA and have input into management decisions.

Membership

Members may be independent or represent a community or industry group to which they provide feedback to and from. Relevant Government agency representatives, such as the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and the GBRMPA, also attend meetings. The aim is to have a balanced representation of local people

who are involved in management or use of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Some interest groups represented on LMACs are:

- The tourism industry
- Recreational and sports fishing
- Commercial fishing
- Agriculture
- Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples
- Conservationists
- Local associations
- Educational institutions
- Port authorities
- Local governments
- Local groups involved in management of natural resources.

Membership is for a three-year term. Members are initially appointed to an LMAC by the GBRMPA in response to an advertisement in local newspapers. Members are selected based on their interest and/or involvement in sustainable marine resource use and conservation, and their ability to communicate information to and from the community. New members may be appointed to the LMAC at any time subject to approval by the GBRMPA.

our great barrier reef
let's keep it great





A Chair and Secretary are elected by the Committee and appointed by the GBRMPA. An annual workshop is held in Townsville to bring all the LMAC Chairs together to discuss issues with each other and with GBRMPA staff.

Meetings

The GBRMPA funds the Committees to meet once every two months. Meetings are held in the evenings on a date set by the Committee. Notices of meetings are sent to Committee members, however non-members and guests are welcome to attend the meetings on invitation of the Committee Chair.

LMACs help to manage the Marine Park by:

- Having representatives of marine user and interest groups in a single forum at a local level, discussing sometimes conflicting views on issues such as habitat conservation and resource sharing
- Assisting in management processes by identifying

issues to be addressed at both local and regional levels

- Encouraging the exchange of information and giving managers the opportunity to develop greater rapport with clients
- Providing a forum for other resource management agencies to meet with the local community and address local concerns
- Encouraging the involvement of the local community in issues that impact on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
- Having a well informed community that are prepared to respond to new

planning initiatives and understand the information requirements of management agencies.

LMACs benefit the community as they provide:

- The opportunity for community representatives to put their point of view across to management agencies and other members of the community
- The opportunity for all representative groups to meet in one forum to gain knowledge and pass knowledge on to other committee members
- An opportunity to learn about the marine and coastal environment in order to make informed decisions and advise management agencies
- A basis to develop community-based projects from
- The opportunity to give direct feedback on management decisions and have ownership for that decision.

For Further Information

Visit the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's website:
www.gbrmpa.gov.au

Visit or write to us:
2-68 Flinders Street
PO Box 1379 Townsville Qld 4810
Australia

Send an email: info@gbrmpa.gov.au

Call or send us a fax:
Phone: +61 7 4750 0700
Fax: +61 7 4772 6093

