



LOCAL MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 2019

Communique

The Local Marine Advisory Committees (LMACs) met throughout the month of May 2019 as part of their official meeting schedule for the 2018–2021 LMAC term. This table highlights items discussed at each meeting.

Authority CEO	A video introducing Josh Thomas to the members was shown.
Great Barrier Reef Foundation Grants	The successful projects were discussed and strategies on how the LMACs will work with project leaders on implementing their projects were identified. The projects will be standing items on future meeting agendas and updates will be provided in this communique.
ReefClean initiative	Staff from Tangaroa Blue gave presentations to most of the LMACs and all of the LMACs were provided with written summaries about the initiative.
Cape York	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding assistance for Roads: Following a big wet season, members reported the region’s roads require significant state/federal funding assistance for maintenance and repair. The long-term issue of the large cost of maintaining tourism infrastructure for minimal economic return to Cape residents also needs to be addressed. • Weed and Pest Control: Members requested that establishing and funding best practice road development/maintenance and associated weed and pest control measures be considered as part of the Reef 2050 Plan review. • Monitoring for Cape York: Members again requested an update on proposed monitoring for Cape York under RIMREP and maintain the lack of water quality data has resulted in inadequate funding. Next meeting: 25 July 2019
Douglas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Isles: Members requested more information about Low Isles caretaking arrangements over the coming months, and for GBRMPA to facilitate a meeting with Low Isles stakeholders. • Fishing: Douglas LMAC fishing subcommittee met to discuss concerns over current fishing practices and how best to work with the fishing community to improve sustainability of local fish stocks. • Marine debris: The committee expressed interest in organising a workshop to address the issue of contaminated recycling from reef boats at the Port Douglas marina; attending micro-plastic workshops, and sponsoring a community clean-up as part of the GBR event in October. • Water stations: The committee will write to the Douglas Shire Council suggesting the installation of water bottle refill stations at key locations to reduce visitors’ reliance on bottled water. Next meeting: 17 July 2019
Cairns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Climate Change Policy: Members discussed the critical need for strong climate change policy regardless of political allegiances, and the importance of opportunities such as the Reef 2050 Plan Review, local government coastal adaptation plans and the Outlook Report to influence policy outcomes.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warriors of the Waterways Project: Members discussed implementation of the project which has been funded through a GBRF local action grant. The project aims to achieve widespread social change in attitudes towards Cairns waterways. One of the outcomes will be a video to be shared on social media which includes promotion of the LMAC and its role. • Public Moorings: Members requested the Far Northern region's public moorings be included as a layer on the Eye on the Reef app. Next meeting: 16 July
Cassowary Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan of Action: Recreational fishing will be a standing item on the agenda as state fishery reforms roll out. Members suggested establishing a sub-committee or regional group such as Ausfish or Carefish to come up with local plan of action to improve recreational fishing practices/change the culture. Members are concerned about the lack of recreational fishing data and supported increased size limits and decreased bag limits for some species. • National Recognition: Two progressive LMAC members who are Reef Guardian Farmers and Fishers (Frank Sciacca's EcoBanana and Chris Bolton Fishing) are receiving national recognition for their sustainable business practices. • Possible Rebate: Members noted increased use of chemicals such as Confidor with a subsequent decline in Coleoptera beetles. Confidor is being used because it is much cheaper than slow release products. A rebate to use the correct product could reduce usage of the chemical. Input reductions will increase organic carbon and result in healthier soils and ecosystems. Next meeting: 9 July
Hinchinbrook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New secretary: Renee Richards resigned from the role of secretary. Shannon O'Brien was nominated and endorsed as the new LMAC secretary. • Presentation: Evan Kruckow, Tangaroa Blue on Reef Clean was well received by members. • Impact of Townsville floods: marine debris continues to remain an area of focus for the LMAC, including impact of the February Townsville floods on the Hinchinbrook area, Next meeting: 17 July
Townsville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Barrier Reef Foundation local action grant update: The Townsville LMAC were awarded funding for a marine debris source reduction project. Members would like to thank all those involved in the preparation of the grant. One action item includes a video for World Oceans Day on 8 May 2019. • Presentations on 'Social research and monitoring applications in GBR management' from Matt Curnock, CSIRO; 'People and the Reef, understanding community perspectives through new forms of participation' from Claudia Benham, JCU; and 'Reef Clean' by Heidi Taylor, Tangaroa Blue, were well received by members. Next meeting: 11 July
Bowen–Burdekin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping erosion: Planting mangrove seeds at Elliot River has proven successful in slowing down erosion problems. There will be no permit issued for planting at Upstart Bay as the area does not fall



	<p>into the category of a degraded environment. Disappointment was voiced that offsets could be paid rather than rehabilitation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tongue Bay: Issues raised around works being undertaken from a Traditional Owner's perspective and questions raised as to why the work being undertaken at night. • Secretary: Duty statement being provided to potential applicants. • Communicating issues: Members expressed disappointment around lack of time available for local fishermen to voice their concerns at the previous meeting due to rescheduling. • Marine Art: All members agreed the quality of art pieces on display in Bowen was high. <p>Next meeting: 3 July</p>
Whitsundays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reef Guardian Grant: Cannonvale State School's mini-movie was played. This showed the children's involvement in the funded restoration of their environmental area which will be used as an outdoor classroom. • Twin Creek project: the members were given a presentation about the Twin Creek project that was successful in obtaining a Great Barrier Reef Foundation grant endorsed by the LMAC. The LMAC will be invited to come along and plant trees as part of the project. • Seagrass Meadows: The members saw the difference in seagrass in the region from 2008 to now, and learnt about the impacts that cyclones Ului and Debbie had made and other potential factors effecting seagrass in the area. • Coral monitoring: A marine biologist from Day Dream Island presented on the condition of coral reefs in the area since STC Debbie. This information will be reported to Eye on the Reef and considered for recommendations of potential further actions to protect valuable sites. • Sewerage Treatment Plants: The Whitsunday Regional Council have updated the Cannonvale plant and will be updating the Bowen plant later this year. Once operational, LMAC members will be invited to visit. The LMAC could help educate communities about items the plants still cannot filter out (eg. pharmaceuticals). • QPWS: Updates provided on capital works underway at a variety of locations including Whitehaven Beach, Whitsunday Island. • WLMAC sign: The LMAC is going to run a competition for a WLMAC sign to be designed by school children for use when attending events within the community. <p>Next meeting: 9 July</p>
Mackay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay Point Dredging Campaign: Members were given an overview about the maintenance dredging program. They were shown the communication and engagement strategy, highlights and summary as well as the online real time monitoring data that was available during the program. There will be post dredging survey and compliance reporting as well as water quality monitoring and coral surveys for 28 days after the dredging finished. • Flying the Nest VLOG: members were shown a youtube clip that was developed by a young couple who interviewed farmers in the



	<p>region and talked to them about what they are doing to improve water quality: www.youtube.com/watch?v=SGwlanWlgDs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Land Art project: Successful Reef Guardian grant recipient gave members a summary on the project. Working with several partners, the team created a botanical work of art (called the Beacon) demonstrating the environmental benefits of regenerative agriculture. They held two community events which allowed the community to be part of the planting and harvesting of the product as well as building awareness and understanding. • Healthy Rivers to Reef Report Card: This will be launched on 18 July at the Botanical Gardens in Mackay. • Wildmob: will cease operations at the end of the financial year. The LMAC member representing Wildmob will stay on as an independent member. • Presentation list: Members have identified several topics for presentations to be given at the up and coming LMAC meetings. Next meeting: 10 July
Capricorn Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Chris Voisey, Department of Transport and Main Roads on Rosslyn Bay maintenance dredging: Chris provided members with a brief history of the project, an update on the soon to be commenced maintenance dredging, the current monitoring regime and findings from previous dredging. • Presentation by Danielle Stewart, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Randall Owens, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, on aquarium (coral) harvest fishery: Members received an update on the Queensland Fisheries Strategy implementation, and insights into the aspirations and future plans for sustainable fishing, including the aquarium fishery working group work and plans. They also had the opportunity for previous and current questions to be addressed. A field trip to a local coral harvest fishery operator was flagged for a future meeting to help understand the industry better. • “What’s down our drains” Great Barrier Reef Foundation-LMAC project: Overview and update of GBRF-LMAC-Fitzroy Basin Association project provided to the LMAC and nominations called for working group members. • Sunscreen: Members discussed the possible impact of sunscreens on reef ecology, current information available and opportunities to address threats sunscreen components may have on Reef health. • North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation maintenance dredging: The recently granted and completed NQBP Hay Point maintenance dredging program was discussed with members raising concerns about the decision, processes to ensure conflict of interest (both actual and perceived) are avoided, and perceived reputational risk to the Authority as managers of the Reef. • LMAC presentations: Members discussed the opportunity to host community talks on Reef related projects/threats, and agreed to seek opportunities at upcoming regional events, including support of the regional office. • Humpy Island boating incidents: Yeppoon Coast Guard



	<p>representative noted the ongoing incidents of boats swamping or getting stuck on the reef at Humpy Island. Members discussed the need for, options and challenges of safe anchorage at what is the GBR's second most popular camping island.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of geofabric bags for revetment works and risk of marine debris: the potential for microplastic contamination from geofabric bags and other activities (such as waste water discharge) was discussed. The LMAC agreed it was an issue of ongoing concern and a working group was formed to investigate these issues. • Keppel Bay/Fitzroy River Marine Monitoring Program need: Capricorn Conservation Council representative provided update on submission to Queensland Environment Minister, Leanne Enoch, regarding lack of MMP water quality monitoring for Keppel Bay/Fitzroy River. Members agreed that is of ongoing and significant concern. • Livingstone Shire Coastal Hazards Adaptation Strategy: Members shared dates of upcoming community information sessions and promotion of these opportunities. • Meeting venue: To allow for member equity and resource consumption, the LMAC will meet in two different towns on alternating meeting dates. <p>Next meeting: 18 July</p>
Gladstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russ Babcock from CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere: Presented a follow up of the Recovery of Reefs Using Industrial Techniques (RECRUIT) program for coral spawn slick harvesting and release. • Presentation by Jodi Jones from Tangaroa Blue Foundation: Update on ReefClean program provided with opportunities for questions. ReefClean program can be followed on social media to keep up date on community clean up opportunities. • Presentation by Ian Anderson on Cape York Tangaroa Blue Foundation activities: Ian presented his experience participating in marine debris clean ups with Tangaroa Blue in Far North Qld. • What's down our drains? Presentation by Holly Lambert from Fitzroy Basin Association: Overview and update of GBRF-LMAC-FBA project provided to the LMAC and nominations called for working group members. • Curtis Island Clean Up: possible event similar to Five Rocks Clean Up in Byfield to engage a different demographic of the community, collaboration between groups, positive feedback received from LMAC members. • Ghost pot clean up: Potential project to remove the many abandoned or lost crab pots after MangroveWatch surveys confirmed this is a significant issue in the region. • Run Ferris Run: Marine debris awareness campaign will be in Gladstone shortly and is available to engage with – can be contacted via Facebook. • Possible mangrove interference on Boyne River: Trimming and hedging of mangroves and removal of riparian vegetation on esplanades discussed as an ongoing and significant issue, the LMAC noted any sightings can be reported to Department of



	<p>Agriculture and Fisheries for increased surveillance. Next meeting: 17 July</p>
Burnett	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pancake Creek public moorings: Members concerned with damage to new public moorings and the need for maintenance on such new infrastructure. The need for better education and awareness about use and impact on the moorings was discussed along with opportunities to engage the key stakeholders. • Douglas Shoals Remediation Project: Members were pleased to hear of the progress of the Douglas Shoals remediation project and the active participation of Traditional Owners (Port Curtis Coral Coast peoples, through Gidarjil). • Permanent live-aboards: The impact of effluent discharge in coastal creeks and islands from vessels and the lack of accessible/cost-effective pump out stations was discussed as a significant issue for the GBR region, particularly in popular locations such as Round Hill Creek (and the Whitsunday Islands). • Russ Babcock from CSIRO Oceans and Atmosphere: Presented a follow up of the Recovery of Reefs Using Industrial Techniques (RECRUIT) program for coral spawn slick harvesting and release. • Welcome Josh Thomas to CEO role: the LMAC members appreciated the introductory video provided by Josh and welcomed him to attend a future meeting. • #LessIsMore for the GBR: Members celebrated the successful application and made plans to progress the project which seeks to reduce single use plastics and promote the use of alternatives such as beeswax wraps and paper straws, and to address cigarette butt litter hot spots through education. • Burnett region projects: Members celebrated the diversity and number of regional Reef projects such as the Gidarjil’s Community Caring for Country - seagrass, inshore coral assessment and junior ranger projects, and the Reef Guardians for Generations citizen science project. • Oceanfest 24 August: members and stakeholder organisations keen to participate in upcoming engagement opportunity to collaborate as one “Reef champions” group at the event. <p>Next meeting: 16 July</p>